



human appeal

HAI-PAK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April - June 2016
Issue No. 09



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the latest edition of the quarterly newsletter of Human Appeal International. It comes at the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan and hence a significant portion of it has been dedicated to highlight the activities taking place during it to reach out to the under privileged class of our society.

Food and in-cash support to the needy people on special occasions, such as Ramadan and Eid, are always a stark reminder to us about the hidden face of our society: chronic poverty and non-availability of a social protection system. Coming across people who

hardly have anything to eat at Sehri and Iftar, one feels thunderstruck and numbed. It is also not uncommon to see parents wearing a dismal look for being unable to provide new dress to their cynosures.

The issue also covers some of others activities undertaken during the quarter under review. As you proceed, you would notice that some of our key projects are nearing the completion of their first phase and we really look forward to your feedback and comments to make them more effective and successful in the days ahead.

RAMADAN FOOD PROGRAM



The Holy Month of Ramadan carries a special significance in the Muslim world as it instills profound feelings of unity, brotherhood and cohesiveness in the adherents of Islam. Apart from being an occasion to rejoice and enjoy the countless bounties of Allah, it also provides an opportunity to the Muslims to go extra miles to help out the ones living a less privileged life for any reason.

Keeping with its past traditions, human Appeal this year again used this occasion to bring relief and comfort in the lives of thousands of people in various parts of the country. Through distribution of food items, clothing and financial aid, it helped them fast and prepare for Eid without any hazard or botheration.

With widows, orphans and refugees as primary target, the program benefited well over 3270 families, a majority of whom belonged to the lowest strata of the society.



IFTAR DINNERS FOR THE UNDER PRIVILEGED

An important component of the program, iftar dinners were arranged at different places at Bagh (AJ&K) and Swat to reach out to orphans, refugees and the needy people at large. At least 1,200 people participated in these events and openly shared their views about the issues they are faced with at the moment.

Like past several years, an iftar dinner was exclusively thrown in honor of Kashmiri refugees, living in camps at Mang Bajri, Azad Kashmir. Since 1990s, these people have been living there in highly unfriendly conditions and making both ends meet has always been a great challenge for them. At another such an event held at an orphanage at Swat, inmates were entertained. Majority of the inhabitants at the center were reported to have lost their parents in the wake of a decade old insurgency in the area.

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DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PARCELS AND EID GIFTS

Distribution of food parcels, clothing and eid gifts also constituted an important part of the Ramadan Program of Human Appeal. For example, food parcels, comprising essential items, such as flour, oil, rice, pulses, salt, sugar and dates, were distributed to the needy people at Tharparkar, Kachra Kundi (Karachi), Mansehra and Bagh. Weighing around 53kg apiece, the food parcels were prepared keeping in view the ration requirements of an average family for the whole month of Ramadan. Distribution ceremony held at Kachra Kundi deserves a special mention here as the beneficiaries of it lived in abject conditions. As the nomenclature suggests, the area is used as the dumping ground for the



Karachi city to dispose of tons of garbage on daily basis. Let alone abiding, even passing by it is a horrible experience. However, as a matter of fact a large number of people still reside there. Over 300 families were provided with eid gifts and clothing on the occasion.

Last but not the least; as many as 327 orphans received eid gifts and clothing at Bagh and Mansehra, respectively. Similarly, 220 widows also received the special gifts and clothing at the two places and thanked Human Appeal for remembering them on the festive occasion.

RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED HOUSES

A powerful quake heavily damaged a large number of houses in Swat in 2015, rendering hundreds of people homeless overnight. The irony of the matter, however, was that these houses could not attain due

attention, thanks to their disperse location. Always on the forefront to deal with emergency situations, HAI immediately launched a relief operation in the area and provided food and NFIs to affectees. As many as 900 families were provided with high quality tents, while the food distributed weighed over 22 tons.

In close coordination with the local administration, the HAI also launched a project for the reconstruction of the damaged houses. During the quarter under review, the project was completed, allowing 40 families to resettle at them at Union Council Shamoza, Swat.

The selection of the houses for reconstruction was made in light of a field assessment report and the economic conditions of the potential beneficiaries. In line with the concept of community participation, each beneficiary was provided with the construction material, while arrangement of laborers was left to him. District admin was involved to cross check

District administration has strongly appreciated the HAI initiative and assured Human Appeal to extend an out all support to the future projects it envisions for the betterment of local people



HEALTH SCREENING OF SPONSORED ORPHANS

Human Appeal worldwide supports over nine million orphans and takes it as a moral and religious obligation to take steps for their welfare. In Pakistan, it is sponsoring over fifteen hundred orphans and bears their educational and health expenses, in addition to providing financial support to



their guardians to raise them in a conducive environment.

During the quarter under review, Human Appeal completed the health screening of the orphans it sponsors in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, KP and Punjab.

The screening package included laboratory tests, such as Blood CP, Urine RE and general medical check up. Those tested positive, were referred to competent physicians and provided with medical facility free of cost. The screening revealed that orphans are no exception to water borne diseases prevalent in Pakistan as a good number of them were diagnosed of diseases, such as infection,

typhoid, cholera and hepatitis.

HEALTH INSURANCE OF ORPHANS

An agreement was also signed with a renowned company for the health insurance of the sponsored children. The agreement covers health facilities to the sponsored orphans as well as their mothers, respectively.

It may also be noted that Human Appeal is currently working on a plan for vocational training of those orphans who enjoy sponsorship until they get 18 but are faced with financial issues beyond that.

INSTALLATION OF HAND PUMPS

Pakistan unfortunately falls in the category of those countries where water borne diseases are fast becoming endemic due to non-availability of clean and safe drinking water.

Human Appeal is currently targeting Faisalabad and Thatta to provide them with clean and safe drinking water facilities to address the issue of water contamination. During the quarter under review, it installed over 200 hand pumps at these places to benefit at least 6,000 people, directly or indirectly. It may be noted that water contamination is a highly serious issue at the two places and local people suffer tremendously due to that.

Human Appeal takes extra care while selecting a location for the installation of a pump. To meet the due diligence process, it also involves local concerned authorities and professionals in the process and benefits from their know-how and experience.



EHSAS QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Aimed at transforming public sector schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) through the revival of co-curricular activities, EHSAS Quality Education Project of Human Appeal is nearing one year of its age, with remarkable achievements under its belt.

During the quarter under review, 216 trainings of teachers were held at different places in AJ&K. With over 95% attendance ratio, the participants were exposed to modern concepts and techniques used in educational sector worldwide e.g., Self-Control Strategies, Classroom Design Techniques, Teaching to Appropriate Behaviors, Accurate and Timely Consequences and Student Teacher Relationships.



Personality development of students is another important component of the EHSAS project. Under Speakers and Writers Clubs, as many as 2942 activities were held across AJ&K. As designed, the activities provided an excellent opportunity to the participants to sharpen their writing and speaking skills. Launched in collaboration with the AJ&K government, EHSAS Quality Education Project aims at professional development of teachers and personality development of students through the revival of co-curricular activities at 772 public sector high and higher secondary schools. Over 12,000 teachers and 100,000 students are benefiting directly from the project, while 2,300 trainers are especially developed to undertake the project.

1ST PHASE OF KITCHEN GARDENING COMPLETED AT THARPARKAR

First phase of Food Security and Nutrition Project comes to an end at Tharparkar, with highly encouraging results on the ground.

Launched almost six months back, the project aimed at building the capacity of local farmers through on-field training and in-kind support to promote kitchen gardening in the area. As many as 200 farmers were trained in the area and encouraged to use the water made available through the installation of solar-powered pumps by Human Appeal for growing vegetables in their courtyards, respectively. The project has received huge appreciations from various quarters for dispelling the notion that growing vegetables at the desert required abundant amount of water, and hence was not a feasible option to go after. It also underlined the need to shift the focus from emergency aid and charity to the local people to self-sustainability. Making 1.5 million people dependent on external support in view of recurrent droughts in the area may have serious socio-political implications, asking the concerned authorities to look for alternate options, such as agriculture and farming on scientific basis.

The project has also been appreciated for being non-discriminatory and all inclusive. It provided a good opening to women and minorities as well to make the best use of available resources to meet their food requirements. The interests and commitment shown by them to carve a niche for them in the new found sector underlined that they were sick of living on aid and wanted to live a more dignified and honorable life.

On the appeal of local people, Human Appeal has decided to extend the project and take it to new levels. It has already started preparing feasibility reports of the second phase of the project and is committed to redouble its efforts for self-sustainability of Tharis through innovative projects and sincere efforts.



PROMOTION OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT THROUGH SEWING MACHINES AND MILKING GOATS

Human Appeal strongly believes that creating employment opportunities for women is essentially important to address the issue of poverty at grassroots level. Besides organizing vocational training courses, it also regularly distributes different kinds of articles, tools and milking goats to promote self employment of women in rural areas of the country.

To support the cause, Human Appeal distributed sewing machines to 34 needy women at Muzaffargarh, Punjab. Majority of the recipients headed their families and believed the initiative would open up a new vista of opportunities for them to improve their economic conditions.

Furthermore, 21 families were also provided with milking goats at Bagh. The recipients were either widows or sole bread winners of their families, respectively.

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I OWE IT ALL TO HUMAN APPEAL



Muhammad Anis and Muhammad Sakib started off their lives in highly unfriendly circumstances. The former was just trying to find his feet when his father passed away in 2006. All he can recall now is that a large number of people gathered from all around to lay his father to rest. That's it! For latter -Sakib -, recalling is not an option at all, as he was born almost five months after the demise of his father. How sweet is paternal love and affection, he simply has no idea. Faced with extremely hard circumstances, the 22 years old mother of the duo Saeeda Bibi had no choice but to accept the invitation of her elder brother to shift to his house at Koray, Mansehra. It was certainly a very bold and courageous step on his part as he himself was hard pressed and barely making both ends meet.

Deep down her heart, Saeeda, was not at ease with the situation. "Though, my children had started going to a local government school, but I really felt very bad to see my brother bearing the expenses of my two

children while he himself struggled to make both ends meet. My ego was badly hurt, to tell you the truth", she recalled.

"A representative of Human Appeal one day approached us from nowhere and collected detailed information about us to share with his head quarter in the UK. He assured us full support before leaving. It all sounded so nice, though none of us believed him deep down our hearts".

"To our utter surprise, one day he informed us that his organization – Human Appeal International – had selected Sakib and Anis for sponsorship of their educational and health expenses. Added to it, I was informed to receive financial support separately as well under the family sponsorship program. It was certainly the most unlikely, yet the most longed for, surprise for us at the moment".

"Today, my children are getting education at a local school and their day to day expanses are met with HAI's support. My deceased husband had a dream to provide best education to our children, so they can have bright future. Thank you Human Appeal International for keeping that dream alive. I owe it all to you alone."

