

A Report on the  
The Delivery of HIV Equipments and Solidarity Regarding World  
Aids Campaign held at Mianwalli District Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup>,

December 2007.

*Founded By UNHCR*

*Submitted to*  
**UNHCR**

*Submitted By*



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## Delivery of HIV & AIDS Equipments and Solidarity regarding World AIDS Campaign

### Concept Note

World AIDS Day is celebrated on the first of December every year, this is important in reminding people that HIV & AIDS has not gone away, and there are so many things that have to be done. This is a time when support is provided to all people who have affected and infected with HIV & AIDS. World AIDS Day is about increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving awareness regarding HIV & AIDS. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV & AIDS do so before they are at the age of 25 and are killed before reaching the age of 35. HIV AIDS is now a threat to man, woman, children and people of all ages.

In Pakistan stigma and discrimination always remain burning issues for HIV, which needs to be tackled on priority basis. There are so many NGOs, CBOs working for its prevention and there are only few NGOs working supporting people living with HIV AIDS. Overall broken efforts are being made with lack coordination and sometimes-basic knowledge about the epidemiology of the virus and its impact on the communities.

SHARP raised its voice on the forum of HIV & AIDS Campaign and arranged a program in Mianwalli DHQ. The objective to develop the consultation of all the health facilitators and Doctors in order to meet the challenge of HIV AIDS. SHARP worked to lift up the basic knowledge & awareness of communities' and other segments of society regarding HIV AIDS through its universal slogan of "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise" and make appeal to Doctors to ensure that how they can meet the goals which have been set in the fight against HIV AIDS.

SHARP donated the equipments of the universal precautionary measures to the blood transfusion cell of Mianwalli DHQ funded by UNHCR. SHARP supplies the equipments in the ceremony ensure the precautionary measures to reduce the risk of HIV & AIDS, screening of blood, blood products which lead towards the HIV infection transfusion. As a result the basic aim was to develop the capacity of DHQ staff about the ways of rationale use of blood and blood products.

The Medical superintendent (MS), Doctors, health facilitators, nurses, staff of pathology department, staff of blood transfusion cell, SHARP Chairman and other members participate in this program.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To develop the consultation of all the health facilitators and Doctors in order to meet the challenge of HIV & AIDS.
- 2) To donate the equipments of universal precautionary measures to the DHQ hospital (blood transfusion cell) which were funded by UNHCR.
- 3) To build up the capacity of the health staff by the promotion of rational use of blood and blood products.

## **Inaugural Remarks by Ms.Shumaila**

Ms. Shumaila Ibrahim welcomed all the participants on behalf of SHARP and paid cordial gratitude for their participation. She discussed the efforts of SHARP existing projects in Mianwalli and hoped that SHARP efforts with the support of UNHCR will definitely contribute in reducing the risk of HIV AIDS in the Mianwalli DHQ. She focused that Pakistan is a low prevalence country regarding HIV AIDS but with several risk factors could lead to development of epidemic and this is great challenge that man has to face today. She shared that 95% people affected with HIV AIDS belong to the developing nations.

She stressed that a right based approach is very important to reduce the risk of HIV & AIDS and which can only develop with the awareness rising, knowledge and promotion of human rights without any discrimination. She explained that programmes must be design in a way, which can reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV AIDS because these are issues, which need to be tackled on priority basis. She shared that effort must be made to raise the awareness of general masses, vulnerable groups and migrated people.

She explained that doctors and staff of health department can prove very useful in this regard because this community can participate in the intervention and precaution strategy. She also highlighted the various reasons of vulnerability in which the most important is poverty which prove a facilitating factor in the spread of epidemic, because poor people do not have social status so cannot enjoy the health facilities in a result cannot protect themselves from vulnerability of AIDS. She said that gender inequalities also play a vital role as migrant and local people do not have equal status and mobility deprived people from availing the health facility.

She said that the collection and transfusion of blood and blood products the use and reuse of un-sterilized medical instruments and low attention towards infection control procedures lead towards the HIV spread. She said that SHARP with the support of UNHCR is donating equipments to the blood transfusion cell and will train the paramedical staff and nurses to avoid from these unhealthy practices.

She invited Dr. Mumtaz Elahi (Medical Superintendent of DHQ) for the further description of the statement of the problem

### **Remarks by Dr. Mumtaz Elahi:**

He thanked SHARP on the behalf of DHQ Mianwalli, discussed all the efforts taken by SHARP members of this project and paid cordial thanks to UNHCR for their generous donation. He appreciated the efforts of Mr. Sheraz and his knowledge of HIV AIDS and its intervention He also expressed his pleasure to have Mr. Chairman in DHQ for this programme in order to distribute the equipments to blood transfusion cell. He discussed that SHARP conducted survey to know the ground realities in the blood transfusion cell and find out that equipments are not working properly need to be repaired and sometimes staff is unskillful to handle the equipments. He said that AIDS is a social, political, economic, and cultural problem as well as the biomedical one. He explained that HIV/AIDS is associated with the collapse not just of communities and families but potentially for the whole state.

He explained that negative behaviour towards HIV AIDS can be controlled through the promotion of effective preventive measures among people. He said that priority should be therefore promotion of prevention measures among people with the greatest risk of transmitting HIV can prove more progressive. He said that counseling can bring more positive results in regard to HIV AIDS because focus will remain how to cope with the situation or how things can be avoided.

He also stressed that situation can be controlled through awareness rising among the people and introduction with the services which are available to prevent the epidemic. He said that in DHQ locals and Afghan both come for medical aid but do not have a right based approach in this regard which need to be developed through media and training of target groups. He quoted the situation of different countries and shared the statistics of different developing countries like India Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

He encouraged the SHARP efforts, UNHCR donation, promised to help and coordinate in this regard and suggested that trainings module for general masses especially the Afghan communities must be design to educate the general masses. He also requested SHARP to arrange a combine camp in which DHQ staff provide health guidance and SHARP educate the masses with laws regarding HIV AIDS.

He thanked SHARP especially UNHCR for the equipments which have been donated to the blood transfusion cell and promised to utilize these in order to reduce the risk of HIV AIDS. In the last he said that regular mobilization, engagement of different direct and indirect target groups for the knowledge sharing, interactive and focus group discussions regarding HIV and other STIs can clear all the myths and misconception of the People.

### **Comments by Dr. Tahir**



Dr. Tahir highlighted that Quacks and swindler health providers are one of the major source of spreading HIV AIDS through the use of un-sterilized syringes and needles. He said that inexperienced/unaware communities are puppet in the hands of the quacks. These fake health facilitators deceive the poor people in order to run their own business. He said that

Doctors and Nurses are provided with sterilized syringes by government so they do not feel any hesitation to use these. On the other side quacks are working freely having no assertion by the government so playing with the health of masses by using and reusing the un-sterilized syringes. He stressed that trainings must be design to train these quacks those are working in harmful way without knowing the risk of HIV AIDS and other STIS.

### **Comments by Dr. Aamir**

He discussed the Pakistan International Commitments regarding HIV AIDS and facilities of primary health without any discrimination. He said that Pakistan adopted the “Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS in 2001”. He said that according to this declaration it will establish the time bound targets for prevention medication and elimination of discrimination regarding HIV. He shared that it will also hold the government accountable for the participation of people living with HIV AIDS for addressing their vulnerability and marginalized segments.

He shared that in 1998 an order was passed by the Supreme Court to cut the needles after using every syringe but the order was still not practiced among quacks. So we need to develop their confidence and awareness in this regard.

He shared that international guidelines on HIV AIDS and human rights were drafted through a participatory approach by group of doctors and advocates. He shared that according to these guidelines human rights will be promoted in order to respond to HIV and AIDS without any discrimination, but at present Pakistan has not officially adopted

these guidelines. He stressed that by adopting these guidelines officially the risk of HIV and AIDS be can reduce.

### **Remarks by Chairman SHARP**

Syed Liaqat Banori(Chairman SHARP) gave a brief introduction of SHARP activities in Mianwalli about legal Aid of Afghan and project of education for street working children. He expressed his pleasure on starting a project of HIV AIDS funded by UNHCR in Mianwali DHQ and thanked MS of DHQ for their amiable support and cooperation in this regard. He said that SHARP was actively engaged to raise awareness regarding HIV AIDS in NWFP, sensitized the segments of society and successfully completed a project of National AIDS Consortium with name of Tameer. He highlighted that SHARP took the initiative and arranged three days training workshop with the collaboration of Provincial Government on the “Awareness of HIV AIDS among Ulema”. He said that the basic aim of this training was to educate the Ulema about the modes of transmit ion of HIV AIDS and how these can be avoided by using preventive measures. All participants appreciated the SHARP initiative in this regard and requested to repeat same type of activities in Mianwalli. Chair highlighted that Ulemas are best to communicate this idea among society.

He also shared with participants that SHARP did a survey among the truck drivers and find out that HIV AIDS is also increasing through migrant workers and 5 to 10 % truck drivers are infected with HIV AIDS ( a project funded by National AIDS consortium). He highlighted that the efforts of SHARP in regard of blood screening in Kurram agency and Bajor agency in the newly established camp of afghan refugee and found the cases of HIV positive.

He discussed that blood transfusion is a major area of concern with regards to HIV & AIDS prevention and control because unsafe blood transfusion and poor infection control contribute in spreading HIV AIDS. He discussed that in the district hospital Mianwalli blood transfusion cell existing but lacking in the equipments preventive measures. He articulated his pleasure that SHARP with the support of UNHCR is donating equipments to the blood transfusion cell of DHQ with this hope that the practices will continue for the welfare of the communities of both locals and Afghan.

He said that SHARP will also develop the capacity of the health staff for raising their awareness of universal precautionary measures and to use these equipments for the wellbeing of the patients of Mianwalli District.

### **Donation of Equipments**

SHARP Chairman donated the equipments (a project funded by UNHCR) of universal precautionary measures to the Medical Superintendent of Mianwalli District Hospital, promised to train the staff of DHQ to use these equipments and hoped that these will prove better for the welfare of the community of Mianwalli. Doctors, nurses, health facilitators and paramedical staff of DHQ

### **Conclusion**

It is being concluded that without the participation of communities' projects tend to subside when funding is over. But with the involvement of communities and focused groups project not only ends successfully but also become sustainable for the times to come. SHARP always believe on the involvement of community and trained members of community those will run this project for independently and successfully even after that. SHARP also highlighted the universal slogan in World AIDS Campaign by posting different banners and posters on different places in local, national and international languages.

## PHOTO GALLERY





