

Report FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT Punjab & Khyber Paktoon Khawa Pakistan



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Acknowledgement

On behalf of people of Pakistan, flood affecties and AAS team, we would like to acknowledge the generous support and contribution of friend from Netherlands, especially Mr. Peronnick, who coordinated this generous support and collected funds for this noble cause. We really appreciate this effort and are thankful for him and his entire team for this excellent work.

We are also thankful to our team who worked in the flood affected areas with courage and commitment and helped the people in need.



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- **Introduction**

This is a brief report of the efforts of AAS team to support and help our brothers and sisters affected by the flood. As we all know that today, the floods are the most frequently occurring natural disasters worldwide, and are increasing as a result of climate change.

Today Pakistan is the victim of this natural calamity and facing one of the most dangerous floods in the history of Pakistan. The raging floodwaters have killed more than 1600 people and has affected more than 15 million. The United Nations says Pakistan will need billions of dollars to recover from its worst floods in history. It is estimated that the damage is at a much larger scale than the earthquake and some are of the opinion that even greater than the Tsunami.

AAS being an health focussed NGO, registered with government of Pakistan, working for the prevention of HIV & AIDS, promotion of SRHR and improvement of Maternal Health had spontaneous response to this natural disaster in Swat, the most affected area in Khabar Pakhtoon Khawa Province by organizing medical camps and support in shelter needs of HIV + persons in Muzafargarh and Dara Ghazi Khan in Punjab province of Pakistan.

- **Need Assessment**

In the first and 2nd week of August 2010 the AAS Team visited Swat valley, Mansahara, Muzafargarh, Lyaia and Dara Gazi Khan and meet with the flood affected people, NGOs working in the area and government official and asked them about their immediate needs and requirements and then offered them their support to provide health services through medical camps, and small support for HIV + person in Muzafargarh and Dara Ghazi Khan to reconstruct their houses to restart their life.

- **Free Medical Camps**

One of the major activity of AAS was to organize free medical camps in Swat Valley. The free medical camps were organized in four different localities such as BHU (Basic Health Unit) Charbag, Tent Village in Midan. From 20th August 2010 to 15th December 2010, total 22 free medical camps were organized by the health team of AAS and they were able to serve about more than 6893 people mostly women and children. Majority of the patients were with water born diseases.



- **Shelter for HIV + persons**

During our visit to District Muzafarghar, Laya and Dara Ghazi Khan in different villages and towns affected by the flood in Punjab Provinces, it was found that HIV + families are also severely affected by the flood, their houses were demolished and they don't have a place to live, they were living in tents or with their relatives in Multan and near by cities. Their livelihood was very much affected, they lost their business and animals. New Light AIDS Control Society, working directly with HIV + people for their care and support, was approached and offered a support to reconstruct their damaged houses. Due to lack of resources out of 20 families only 10 families most needed and affected were selected to address their immediate shelter needs such as renovation and reconstruction accordingly;



Lesson learned:

- AAS need to establish its disaster management cell and train its team
- Involve local people as volunteers in the relief activities
- Identify contact persons in the locality before starting any relief services in the affected areas
- Coordinate with the government and other NGOs working in the same sector to avoid the duplication and save the resources
- Train AAS activists (Volunteers) to address the issues of disaster in the country.
- Timely enough resource mobilization for the cause.

Conclusion:

This was a learning experience for AAS team, how to work in a disaster area, especially in Swat where at the same time the team has to face the disaster related problems, needs and issues of flood affected people and fear of militancy in the free medical camp areas. The support from the Friends of Netherlands was timely that made the work of AAS more effective and useful, with this support and cooperation, we were also able to provide financial support to HIV+ people in three districts of Punjab. We are thankful to God for His blessing and friends of Netherlands for their generous support and cooperation, we were able to play our due role to respond to the needs of flood affected people in Pakistan.

