

# ANNUAL REPORT



Muhammad Usman

PROJECT DIRECTOR

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## Reducing the Impact of HIV Among Transgenders & key Populations Through Mobile Testing and Prevention Services “Reaching the Unreached Key Population”

### Who we Are:

Dareecha male health society (Dareecha) is a community-based organization working for transgender community and key population with a volunteer core .Dareecha is providing services on prevention of HIV\Aids which include volunteer counselling and testing (VCT),sexually Transmitted infection(STI) diagnoses and treatment ,psychosocial counselling .Dareecha utilize behavior change communication (BCC) strategy on peer-to-peer basis, Dareecha advocates with stakeholders and liaison with National and Provincial AIDS Control Program .With community awareness sessions and community mobilization events being organized to enhance their knowledge regarding issues related to human rights and Mental Health. In its own words, Dareecha male health society has been the only hope for transgender community and key population of RWP region, since 2012.It is part of the visionary statement of Dareecha to create awareness through services of all fundamental rights for gender minorities.

Dareecha is community-based organization with a mission to provide best available health and social facilities to transgender and key population of RWP region. The main agenda is to strengthen the transgender community and key population so that they could speak up for their own rights and standup on their own verdict. the mission is not only limited to this, but it also includes diminishing stigmas attached with this particular gender minority. Moreover, Dareecha got registered as an independent community-based organization in 2015 with a mission more focused on health and social aspects of transgender. Under MSA global fund program Dareecha has met all its targets from January-December, 2016.Dareecha has also been working with “Save the children international Nepal”, from January,2017 till February,2018.

Dareecha has been working successfully under National Aids Control Program (NACP). It has been implementing MSA global fund HIV program for the TG community in Rawalpindi which includes HIV testing along with pre and post- counselling by expert team members .The main tool used in this counselling has been behavior change communication with clients .Service deliver has been successfully conducted throughout ,covering all major components which include but are not limited to distribution of precautionary measure products such as condoms and lubricants ,for awareness and education IEC(Information ,Education and Communication) material has been distributed vigorously ,and counselling through behavior change communication about STDS. The ten members team of the organization is managed by a program Director Mr.Muhammad Usman ,who strives for a progressive transgender community in Pakistan . Dareecha has been appreciated by its achievement at various national and international platforms.



*Transgender Community along with Project Director Dareecha at Head office RWP*

## 1.1 Building Alliances:

Dareecha has edge of being stationed in Rawalpindi and it has the support of networks that can enable it to strengthen the movements by taking on a leadership role to create a sustained demand followed by an equally sustained result. communication strategy will define a coherent resource guideline on managing relationships with law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations networks and intra community networks.

Learning through several examples, it is known fact that organizations can progress and achieve their goals through alliances. Dareecha can form a national advisory coalition platform that meets at least twice a year. It should be formed by inviting ally of the community from different sectors: parliamentarians, journalist, education, judiciary, ministry oh Human Rights Commission for Pakistan, writers, celebrities, shelters, helplines, activists etc. This will help Dareecha become a national leader in influencing legislation, policies, processes and practices to improve the conditions of the community.

## 1.2 What We Do:

Dareecha has successfully achieved following targets in the whole year in 2020, **Over forty-four thousand behavioral changes recorded through communication sessions, more than ten thousand VCT sessions held Over seven thousand STI testing and referrals make more than 250,000 condoms\lubricants have been distributed.** Dareecha has not limited its doors to community members but have joined hands with students from various universities to conduct awareness sessions and project related to transgender and key population of RWP.

Dareecha's secretariat office is a free space for transgender community and key population of RWP, which encourages them to frequently visit for testing and social networking. Dareecha has gained trust of transgender community and gives hope for the improved delivery of health and social facilities for transgender and key population. Since 2018, Dareecha started to work in the field of research, mental health and well-being and awareness raising on national level. Dareecha is coordination with different donors supported the local community members during COVID-19 through ration and PPEs distribution.



*Awareness Session at Head Office RWP*

### 1.3 Ensuring Data Protection & Security system:

To contain security threats, a holistic security plan that includes, securing premises physically and digitally but essentially to securing the self-care practices and mental health & wellbeing of employers and employee (introducing health insurance etc.).



*Transgender demand justice for victims and survivors and security for the transgender community from the Government of Pakistan.*

### 1.4 Area of Concern:

Dareecha has been implementing MSA Global fund HIV program for the KP/TG community in Rawalpindi that includes;

- HIV testing and counselling services that involve behavior change communication along with pre and post-test counselling.
- Service delivery involving all four components such as Distribution of lubes/condoms, IEC material for awareness and education, Pre-test and post-test counselling, BCC- (Behavior change communication) and sexually transmitted infection's diagnosis & treatment.
- To avoid dropping out in treatment cascade, Dareecha has been providing care and support to clients by referring and registering them to government facilities.
- In the past, Dareecha had experience of conducting trainings and producing continuous reports on the impact of those trainings for NMHA.
- Advocacy with stakeholders and liaison with National Aids Control Program in Islamabad and Punjab Aids Control Program.

- Networking with KP/TG community, INGOs & NGO's.
- Facilitated several research projects for students and organizations along with awareness and sensitization.

This is the main highlight of the experience Dareecha had in implementing KP/TG focused HIV program.

### 1.5 Organization Achievements:

Except the key indicators, targets, services; SR's throughout the working years have been conducting sessions for the community at their drop-in center where community counsellor & STI specialist has been facilitating different health related topics.

In terms of activities, all the major activities planned were carried out such as IDAHOT event, World Aids Day, community mobilization event where treatment cascade and HIV, STI related issues were discussed.

Mobile VCT was conducted in order to reach maximum clients and to accomplish maximum targets. It also helped us in reaching the key populations.

International day against homophobia & transphobia was organized to gather up the community and to provide awareness regarding how to avoid and tackle the stigma and discrimination from the society.

Awareness regarding Yogyakarta principles was provided to community in different awareness sessions at CBO's. Human rights violation cases has been discussed during different Community Mobilization Events. Community Mobilization Event- Importance of Treatment Cascade held at Dareecha.

<b>BCC (New + Repeat)</b>	<b>1553</b>
<b>VCT (New)</b>	<b>1199</b>
<b>STI</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>PLHIV's</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Condom/Lubes</b>	<b>119121</b>

**Accelerated response to HIV through effective prevention, treatment, care and support interventions for key populations in Pakistan through National AIDS Control Program**

<b>Project Title &amp; Name</b>	Accelerated response to HIV through effective prevention, treatment, care and support interventions for key populations in Pakistan
<b>Country / Location/ City within the country</b>	Rawalpindi, Pakistan
<b>Name of the Donor</b>	Global Fund program for key populations
<b>Start Date (Month /Year)</b>	Jan 2020
<b>Completion Date (Month / Year)</b>	December 2020
<b>Value of the Contract</b>	PKR 7,939,200
<b>Target group / beneficiaries</b>	Transgenders/Key Population
<b>No. of Direct beneficiaries</b>	1 NACP
<b>No. of Indirect beneficiaries</b>	1 DMHS
<b>Duration of the Assignment</b>	01 Year
<b>Address of Donor / Implementing Partner</b>	National AIDS Control Program National Institute of Health Chak Shahzad, Islamabad Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai Contact: Email: <a href="mailto:achakzaibk@gmail.com">achakzaibk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Value of the services provided by your firm under the contract in PKR`s (Program Cost)</b>	Total Program Cost PKR (7,939,200 ) From January 2020 – December 2020
<b>No. of professional staff under the program</b>	09
<b>Name of the senior staff member of the CBO involved and functions performed</b>	Mr. Muhammad Usman , Program Manager Dareecha Male Health Society Contact: <a href="mailto:usmanmalikmo@gmail.com">usmanmalikmo@gmail.com</a> Tel: +92-331-5309899
<b>Narrative description of the project</b>	<b>Key Interventions under the Grant:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in Center facility (for repeat BCC/ Psycho social support &amp; Counseling)</li> <li>• TG/KP reached through community based HIV prevention outreach program in Pakistan.</li> <li>• TG/KP who received an HIV test through project CBOs and who know their results in Pakistan.</li> <li>• Sexually transmitted infections treated through project CBOs amongst TG/KP in Pakistan.</li> <li>• Referral Support to PLHIV`s with strong follow up</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Mobilization Events.</li> <li>• Civil society allies.</li> <li>• Service Delivery through Mobile VCT &amp; DIC</li> <li>• Career Counseling and family counseling in DIC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Description of actual services provided by your staff within the assignment</b></p>	<p><b>Outreach Department:</b>  Outreach workers usually contact the clients during their site visits, Dara’s and hotspots where clients meet easily, ORW used to counsel them by BCC and register them on the field and also refer them for VCT and other follow ups.</p> <p><b>Paramedic:</b>  After the registration, a client is here for the Pre and Post Counseling, Lab tests &amp; for STI Medicines by the Paramedic during Mobile VCT’s or VCT in DIC.</p> <p><b>Site Manager:</b>  The site manager is responsible for Program, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation, Finance &amp; Administration, Technical support to staff, Stock Maintenance &amp; overall supervision of CBO.</p>

**1.6 Management of the Grant:**

The overall management of the grant specifically in terms of reaching the targets has been splendid considering the amount of time. On the other hand, performance in terms of utilizing more budget to its maximum level could be improved if external factors would have been spared.

Monitoring by the management staff was designed in a way that M&E officer who was responsible for overall monitoring & evaluation of the project/ grant had divided his time based on the tasks in every department. Data was analyzed at the end of every month from each and every department i.e., DIC, Outreach, community counselor, lab, and STI specialist. The main purpose of this was to gather the data, analyze/ evaluate it and after matching it to physical count report it further to the PR. After this whole process the strategies were devised for the next period. Regular field visits by M&E helped to monitor the work of field department and to make sure that the key population has been reached. Moreover, any other way program manager has been responsible for the overall management of the grant which has been further verified by the board of directors of Dareecha. All the documents including budget sheets, day to day expenses,

strategies for new targets, city mapping, program cost, designed activities, networking, reporting, trainings and so on has always been verified, planned, strategized by program manager. Please refer to the organogram below to understand the structure of staff and executive board.

## 1.7 Deliverables For:

### 1) Continuation of transgender community forum on mental health and well being

The initiative is continued for the mental health and well-being of community members where the community members can sit and talk about their issues with general public and sensitized psychologists. Dareecha provided a platform through this initiative and it was one of the great successes as the transgender people sit and discussed their issues, professional psychological support gave them a confidence that they are also a part of society. They discussed the taboo and stigma attached with them and how people treat them in public spaces. Special attention was given to community health and well-being through psycho socio support.

<b>Budget</b>	<b>15,000 Euros</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>May - December, 2020</b>
<b>Number of deliverables</b>	

#### Outputs:

- Psycho-socio support to transgender community without discrimination
- A formal forum to discuss the needs and issues of community
- Capacity building of community members that how to interact with general public
- Bridging the gap between society and community through joint discussions

### 2) Developing strategic plan of Dareecha Male Health Society (2020-2023)

For the sustainability of organization, Dareecha in coordination with board members and relevant stake holders developed its strategic plan under capacity development of organization. One of the consultants was hired to develop the strategic plan with the objective to provide capacity building assistance to DMHS, with the objective of building the organization's capacity, so it is positioned to successfully implement a solid strategic plan, with supporting systems and processes, as well as move towards a self-sustainable organization. Dareecha engaged stakeholders including, but not limited to, DMHS Board members and transgender community members, office staff and stakeholders.

#### Outputs:

- Review of the DMHS vision and mission
- Through a consultative process with Board Members and application of an appropriate tool of analysis, identify focus areas and develop strategic objectives and key result areas for the same

- Review the institutional capacity, organizational set-up, financial and administrative systems against the DMHS mandate and the identified strategic objectives and key result areas; and make recommendations, if any
- Propose a strategy for achieving the strategic objectives and key results
- Develop a Results and Resources Framework
- Hold stakeholder meeting(s) (Board Members and other organizations) to validate the draft Strategic Plan

### **3) A Comprehensive Study of COVID-19 Effects on Transgender Community and Key Population in Pakistan**

The study has been the first evidence-based research on national level to understand the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on community. The study was designed with a local perspective where both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted. The effects of pandemic were important to give a baseline for any further research and action required by government, NGOs, academia or donors etc.

The outputs and findings were appreciated by the partners and stake holders and they said that further initiatives will be taken to develop and strengthen the livelihood support mechanisms at their organizations in coordination with donors and government. This study managed to cover the lower income class and grass root level community members.

*As per community members this is a “stepping stone” for researchers and other stake holders as it is an evidence-based work done on national level on a situation like COVID-19.*

#### **Outputs:**

- First evidence-based study on the pandemic effects
- Needs and issues of transgender community highlighted and shared with relevant stake holders
- Support mechanism for the livelihood support need mentioned
- Health and well-being issues highlighted

### **4) Distribution of ration bags**

In addition, to the above-mentioned activities, Dareecha extended its support under the same project to the community members and their families in need of food through ration bags with basic food items approximately for one month for a family of 3 to 4 persons. These ration bags contained basic food items of good quality for daily usage like flour, rice, milk, lentils, sugar, cooking oil, tea and face masks. This initiative was taken as a result of study conducted and situation analysis.

#### **Outputs:**

- 102 community members with ration bags for a family of 3-4 for approximately a month
- The overall support of ration bag covered/accommodated 306 persons for a month

## 1.8 Feedbacks From Stakeholders/Beneficiaries

Dareecha has always received positive feedback whether it be community or stakeholders. Community has always been concerned regarding the continuation of the grant and their participation has been very helpful in terms of referring other clients, creating awareness among their friends or working with Dareecha as peer educators. Most of the clients in their own language has admired Dareecha saying, “We did not know anything regarding our health issues before Dareecha. Dareecha has opened up our minds. Other have said, “We do not get fooled by our clients during sex work- we know that our health is more important than their money”. Now since the grant is ending, they are concerned about where will they go in the future as they don’t feel comfortable going anywhere else. Similarly, CCM’s visit to Dareecha in December was very motivating since it was the first visit in the while year and they complimented Dareecha’s effort. Dr. Momoudu from UN-AIDS said, “You guys are doing a great work and not everyone can commit to the work that you are doing. Keep it up and we are very thankful for the part you are playing in fighting HIV-AIDS among key populations.

Our meetings with stakeholders, embassies and other foreign missions have bagged us lot of motivation and praise throughout our work.