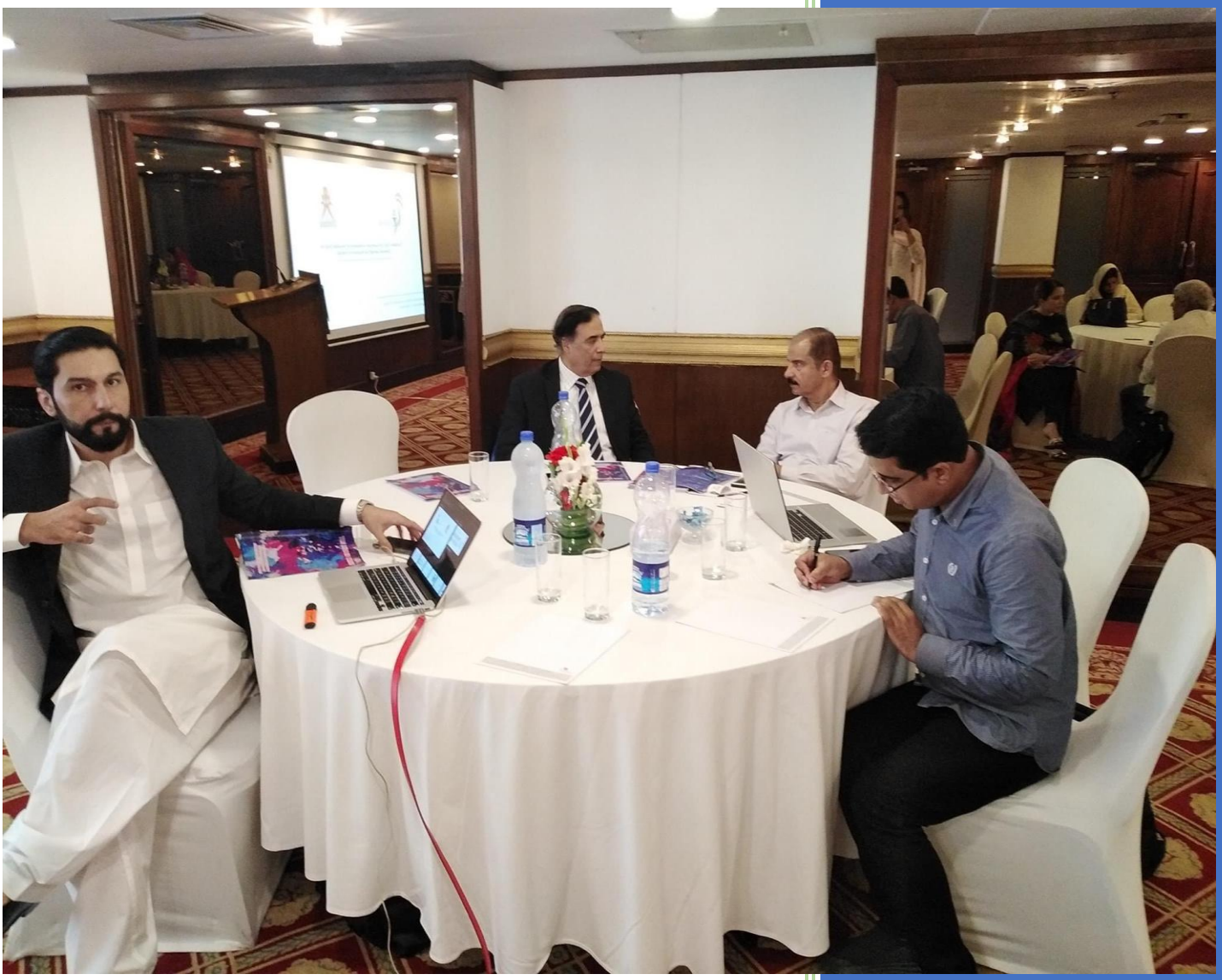
DAREECHA MALE HEALTH SOCIETY PAKISTAN

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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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:

Founded in 2012, Dareecha Male Health Society (Dareecha) is a community-based organization in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, dedicated to supporting the transgender community and other key populations. Recognizing the distinct health and social needs of these groups, Dareecha offers services that include HIV/AIDS prevention, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), STI diagnosis and treatment, and psychosocial counseling.

Dareecha's work is grounded in Behavior Change Communication (BCC), focusing on peer-to-peer engagement to foster healthier lifestyles. The organization regularly collaborates with stakeholders, including the National and Provincial AIDS Control Programs, to amplify awareness and resources. Community awareness sessions and mobilization events provide essential education on human rights and mental health, helping to address issues these groups face.

Vision and Mission

Dareecha envisions a society where transgender individuals and key populations are aware of and can advocate for their rights. The organization strives to empower these communities to overcome stigmas and achieve greater independence. Registered as an independent CBO in 2015, Dareecha has further sharpened its focus on health and social well-being, especially for the transgender community.

Programs and Collaborations

Dareecha has successfully implemented the MSA Global Fund HIV program under the National AIDS Control Program, focusing on HIV testing and counseling. Behavioral counseling, along with distribution of educational materials and prevention supplies like condoms and lubricants, has been central to Dareecha's approach. The organization’s commitment to quality service delivery has earned it recognition at both national and international forums.

Dareecha’s dedicated team, led by Program Director Muhammad Usman, continues to work tirelessly to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for the transgender community in Pakistan.

Transgender Community along with Project Director Dareecha at Head office RWP

1.1 Building Alliances:

Dareecha benefits from its strategic presence in Rawalpindi and the strong support of networks that position it well to lead impactful movements. This role would enable Dareecha to create sustained demand and achieve enduring positive outcomes for the community. A focused communication strategy will provide clear guidance for managing relationships with law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and intra-community networks.

Drawing from examples of successful organizations, it is evident that forming alliances is key to achieving meaningful progress. Dareecha can establish a National Advisory Coalition that convenes at least twice a year, bringing together community allies from diverse sectors, including parliamentarians, journalists, educators, members of the judiciary, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, writers, celebrities, shelters, helplines, and activists. This coalition would enhance Dareecha's capacity to influence legislation, policies, and practices that improve conditions for the community, positioning Dareecha as a national leader in advocacy for positive change.

1.2 What We Do:

Dareecha has successfully achieved following targets in the whole year in 2020, ***Over Twelve thousand behavioral changes recorded through communication sessions, more than nine thousand VCT sessions held Over four thousand STI testing and referrals make more than 11,00000 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.).

1.4 Area of Concern:

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

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.

Active engagement in policy and advocacy helps the organization address the health rights and needs of these populations, aiming to influence policy in ways that improve resources and reduce stigma at a broader level. Training programs for staff and community members further enhance service quality, equipping individuals to provide empathetic support and advocate for mental health needs.

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

HIV prevention and support for key populations can achieve significant impact by employing a comprehensive and community-centered approach. Conducting regular awareness sessions and using behavior change communication (BCC) strategies helps increase understanding about HIV prevention, reduce stigma, and promote safer practices within the community.

MSM

BCC (New + Repeat)	**8437**
VCT	**5670**
STI	**2113**
PLHIV`s	**71**
Condom/Lubes	**724391**

TG

BCC (New + Repeat)	**3119**
VCT	**2421**
STI	**1186**
PLHIV`s	**118**
Condom/Lubes	**385751**

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

Project Title & Name	Accelerated response to HIV through effective prevention, treatment, care and support interventions for key populations in Pakistan
Country / Location/ City within the country	Rawalpindi, Pakistan
Name of the Donor	Global Fund program for key populations
Start Date (Month /Year)	Jan 2022
Completion Date (Month / Year)	December 2022
Value of the Contract	PKR 24,046,127
Target group / beneficiaries	Transgenders/MSM/Key Population
No. of Direct beneficiaries	1 NACP
No. of Indirect beneficiaries	1 DMHS
Duration of the Assignment	01 Year
Address of Donor / Implementing Partner	National AIDS Control Program National Institute of Health Chak Shahzad, Islamabad Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai Contact: Email: achakzaibk@gmail.com
Value of the services provided by your firm under the contract in PKR`s (Program Cost)	Total Program Cost PKR 24,046,127 From January 2022 – December 2022
No. of professional staff under the program	09
Name of the senior staff member of the CBO involved and functions performed	Mr. Muhammad Usman , Program Manager Dareecha Male Health Society Contact: usmanmalikmo@gmail.com Tel: +92-331-5309899
Narrative description of the project	**Key Interventions under the Grant:** • Drop in Center facility (for repeat BCC/ Psycho social support & Counseling) • TG/KP reached through community based HIV prevention outreach program in Pakistan.

	• TG/MSM/KP who received an HIV test through project CBOs and who know their results in Pakistan. • Sexually transmitted infections treated through project CBOs amongst TG/KP in Pakistan. • Referral Support to PLHIV`s with strong follow up • Community Mobilization Events. • Civil society allies. • Service Delivery through Mobile VCT & DIC • Career Counseling and family counseling in DIC
Description of actual services provided by your staff within the assignment	**Outreach Department:** 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. **Paramedic:** After the registration, a client is here for the Pre and Post Counseling, Lab tests & for STI Medicines by the Paramedic during Mobile VCT`s or VCT in DIC. **Site Manager:** The site manager is responsible for Program, Monitoring & Evaluation, Finance & Administration, Technical support to staff, Stock Maintenance & overall supervision of CBO.

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.

Budget	**15,000 Euros**
Duration	**Jan- December, 2022**
Number of deliverables	

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

4) Ramazan Ration Bags Distribution:

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:

- 110 community members with ration bags for a family of 4-5 for approximately a month
- The overall support of ration bag covered/accommodated 306 persons for a month

1.8 Feedbacks From Stakeholders/Beneficiaries

Dr. Marlin from UNAIDS praised the organization's commitment, stating, "You are doing great work, and not everyone can commit to what you are doing. Keep it up – we are truly grateful for the role you're playing in fighting HIV/AIDS among key populations." Additionally, meetings with stakeholders, embassies, and foreign missions have provided Dareecha with valuable motivation and appreciation, fueling their ongoing commitment to this essential work.