

HELP PROVIDE CLEAN WATER DIRTY WATER KILLING PEOPLE,

BY JAZA, HONORARY EDITOR

TORONTO: Death and diseases in the shape of Dirty Water are haunting Pakistanis. Thousands are dying and millions falling seriously sick everyday due to non-availability of clean water in over 80 percent areas of Pakistan, particularly in the rural areas.

Saving lives of those facing danger has become a great challenge. Immediate plans, measures and actions are needed to help those suffering. In the interest of humanity, we must help each other tackle this very important issue. The Human Development Foundation (HDF) is one such organization which has accepted this great challenge to save lives and ensure clean water to the people. For this mission and purpose, HDF urgently needs Generous Donations. HDF needs Volunteers and Donors to help in the donation campaign for its clean water project in Pakistan. Although any major amount of donation to save precious lives is less but very essential, the minimum one time donation for this project is \$50. More donations will help save more lives, fight diseases, educate and train people. Proper awareness, education and training are very important to face the challenges successfully.

Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad, President of HDF Canada, held a Press briefing in this connection at the residence of Shahid Hashmi, Chairman, Canpak Chamber of Commerce, on July 10, 2010. He briefed the media about HDF's clean water project. Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad said: "HDF's Sustainable Environment Initiative is providing disadvantaged partner communities in Pakistan with a simple and effective solution for clean water." He said: "The Bio-Sand Filter, which is manufactured and supplied in Pakistan, costs only \$50/household and provides safe and sustainable drinking water for an entire family for a life time. There is no maintenance problem. It is very simple. Just clean the filter."

Gulzar said: "HDF trains people through awareness and education to help each other and run the projects as well on their own and with their own resources. The concept is of ownership basis and not charity basis. The people are educated and trained to work together and contribute with this spirit." Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad said: "Some people do not have a choice. They are drinking the dirty water, getting sick and dying. The factual position is that over 40 per cent of all diseases in Pakistan are directly attributed to poor quality drinking water. That is why this project is extremely important and necessary. We need help to save lives, prevent sickness and provide clean and healthy water."

He said: "Volunteers and donors can help successfully implement this project. Donation can be made at www.hdfcanada.org. For more information, help and support, interested persons can contact: HDF Canada (Tax ID 88949 9802 RR0001), 4208 Ramsay Road, Edmonton Canada, AB T6H 5R2. Tel: (780)430-6994. Email: info@hdfcanada.org."

Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad said: “HDF wants support of people as volunteers and donors in Toronto for the clean water project. Our mission is clean water for every household. Presently HDF is looking after 28,000 households.” He said: “HDF needs volunteers and donors to help collect donation for at least 1000 Bio-Sand Filters---one (\$50) for each household. The HDF target is 600 villages with 1000 households.”

Gulzar said: “HDF goes to the rural areas, selects areas with 1000 households and involves the community in completion of the projects. Community awareness is created to manage the projects with their own resources. Teachers and volunteers are given good training.”

Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad said: “Another HDF’s very important mission is to provide best basic education at the least cost. This is also a very big problem and challenge. One of the biggest problems is that even those children who want to learn do not come forward because of various factors including political, landlord and tribal leader pressure. This is why the drop out rate too is also very high. Despite all the hurdles, HDF is committed to encourage them and provide best education.”

Gulzar said: “Details of the HDF programs, projects, contributions and achievements are all available at: www.hdf.com and www.hdfcanada.org.”

He said: “HDF is transforming lives. For this it needs Zakat. It is committed to provide and promote good and basic:

- 1) Education (Primary to High Level Schools and Adult Literacy Programs)
- 2) Health (Preventive Healthcare, Curative Healthcare and School Health Program).
- 3) Economic Development (Micro-Credit and Capacity Building).”

Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad said: “We owe Pakistan a lot and need to do something for it. The mission of HDF is to ensure basic health, education and essential facilities to the people of Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. Our aim is to create awareness, promote education and provide basic facilities.”

He said: “In a short period, HDF had through mobile x-ray unit and lab facilities provided services to 6000 people in Azad Kashmir. The school in Shamsabad is providing education to children. The area has a population of 50,000.”

Gulzar said: “The community health center in Rahimyar Khan has provided basic health facilities to over 50,000 people. The community health center in Mardan is providing basic health facilities to over 70,000 people.”

Gulzar said: “CIDA was approached to help HDF screen children but CIDA did not. HDF screened 10,000 children on its own. HDF is committed to and working for basic health and education through awareness and training.

Shahid Hashmi, Chairman, Canpak Chamber of Commerce, said: “If the Muslims worldwide commit and start giving regularly 2-1/2 (two and a half) per cent Zakat then most of the problems faced by them would be solved. They would become prosperous. Shahid also said: “In order to maintain the quality, good level, maintenance and success of the projects, particularly education, it is necessary to ensure proper payment.”

One of the major issues is that projects which are completed are not maintained properly and as a result are destroyed. It must be ensured that these projects are looked after properly and run successfully all the time.

Khwaja Gulzar Ahmad thanked Shahid Hashmi and his family for the great help and support extended to the HDF and the community’s cause.

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