

# Media Dialogue



## **Increased Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS As an Aftermath of Earthquake**

Muzaffarabad 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005

Organized by:  
**Pakistan National AIDS Consortium**  
**Delegation of European Commission**  
**Kashmir AIDS Consortium**



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## First Media Seminar

### Increased Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS

#### AS An Aftermath of Earthquake

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005, Muzaffarabad

PNAC in Collaboration with European Commission organized a media dialogue in Muzaffarabad. The title of the seminar was, "Increased Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS as an Aftermath of Earthquake". It has been observed that conditions which follow a great natural disaster are always invariably those which contribute in the spread of HIV and AIDS. Therefore it was felt that it is the need of the time to take up initiative and sensitize the journalists about the problems, on which there has hitherto been little attention. Kashmir AIDS Consortium played a very important role in coordinating and organizing the seminar.

Three members delegation, which consisted of Mr. Qadeer Baig National Manager PNAC, Aftab Ahmed Awan Communication Officer PNAC and Mr. Shahzad Badar, Media Advisor Delegation of the European Commission, went to Muzaffarabad Azad Kashmir on 21<sup>st</sup> of December to arrange and conduct a seminar for media personnel. A preliminary meeting with the president of Kashmir AIDS Consortium Raja Abid Ashraf and Mr. Yasir Arfat was held in the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> December to discuss the arrangements of the seminar.

The seminar was supposed to start on 11.30 am. But the due to the late arrival of participant the seminar started at 12.15 pm. Mr. Gilani, General Secretary KAC conducted the proceedings of the seminar. Mr Yasir Arafat welcomed the guests and introduced them the objectives of the seminar. He also discussed the history Kashmir AIDS Consortium and the role played by Kashmir AIDS consortium in spreading awareness and information about HIV and AIDS.

The second session was a situational analysis of HIV and AIDS in Pakistan, which was presented by Aftab Ahmed Awan. In the presentation different aspects of the HIV and AIDS epidemic were discussed in detail.

Afterwards Mr. Qadeer Baig discussed the concept of increased vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. He invited the participants to discuss different aspects of the issue and to give recommendations for pre-empting the spread of HIV and AIDS in the area. Dr. Irum Gilani, who is the deputy program manager Blood Transfusion Services also gave a presentation discussing Blood transfusion services and the screening procedure.

DG Social Welfare Department Ms. Sakina thanked European Commission and PNAC for taking the initiative in the right direction and assured that government was cognizant of the situation. She assured her complete cooperation.

Ms. Noreen Arif, Minister for Social Welfare and Agriculture, who joined a little bit late, also thanked EC and PNAC for their initiative and discussed various steps taken by the government to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS in the area. She also appreciated the efforts of KAC in this regard.

Raja Abid Ashraf, President KAC thanked all the guests in the end for their enthusiastic participation. He thanked Pakistan National AIDS Consortium and European Commission for taking the initiative in this regard and highlighting a serious issue. He also requested PNAC and EC to scale up their interventions and think of a long term initiative in Kashmir

The seminar was attended by Minister of social Welfare Ms. Noreen Arif, DG Social Welfare Department Ms. Sakina Bokhari, Dr. Parveen Farooq Provincial Manager Provincial AIDS Control Program, Dr. Irum Gilani Deputy Program manager Blood Transfusion services, other high government officials, representatives of civil society organizations and large number of journalists and representative of electronic media.

The seminar proved very successful and was widely covered in the local media and also on national media. It was covered by Pakistan Television on the same day in Kashmiri News. All the participants requested PNAC to scale up its intervention and to increase its program in Kashmir in collaboration with KAC.

The seminar was followed by lunch. The delegation returned to Islamabad in the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> December.



Participants of the Seminar



Discussion among Participants



Minister of Social Welfare Ms. Noreen Arif listening to the participants



Minister of Social Welfare Ms. Noreen Arif Addressing the Seminar