

**https://www.hopecharityusa.org**

HOPE Charities USA

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July 11, 2019

**Introduction:**

* Salaam Sisters, I wanted to first of all thank you for allowing me to come and present to you.
* My name is Ambereen Siddiqui and I am the Director of HOPE Charities USA, an 501(c)(3) organization which is dedicated to ending poverty in Pakistan by empowering women and children to their utmost potential.

**Why Chose HOPE?**

* The most crucial aspects in the survival of a charity are:
  + 1) **Trust** - Trust means that as an organization, we promise to put your donations towards areas that have
    - the **maximum impact –** for HOPE USA, 96 cents of your dollar goes towards making a difference and
    - the **most needed impact –** reaching people who are truly in need.
  + 2) **Transparency**. Transparency means that we are **honest** about:
    - **how money is used**
    - and provide you **feedback** about what **results** were obtained with your donations.
* By the grace of Allah SWT, HOPE USA is slowly gaining **credibility as a trustworthy organization in the US**. My brother and I have been working hard over the past three years to spread awareness about this organization we feel so strongly about and our ultimate goal is to have HOPE become as recognized as Islamic Relief or Edhi.
* While we are still gaining a name in the US, in Pakistan we have surely made an impact. We have **7 main areas of focus**:
  + **Health**
  + **Education**
  + **Vocational Training**
  + **Aqua Project**
  + **Emergency Relief**
  + **Ramadan Activities**
  + **Qurbani/Udhiyaa**.

HOPE was established in Pakistan in 1998 and over the course of 22 years we have grown to an organization which uses a **multi-pronged approach towards poverty alleviation in Pakistan**.

* With the help of Allah SWT, we are humbled to say that we provide **free healthcare to over 500,000 needy people and a free quality education to almost 10,000 children per year**.
* **70 percent of our beneficiaries are impoverished women and children**.
* We have a network of **hospitals, maternal and child health centers, basic health units, and mobile health units** to provide **free** **medical care**.
* For **education:**
  + **3 formal schools** that educate about **1,800 children**
  + **180 informal** or home schools that educate approximately **8,000 children** throughout Pakistan.
  + **75 percent of the students in our informal schools are young girls who ordinarily face many obstacles to obtaining an education**.
* In order to **break the cycle of poverty** and teach young adults **income-generating skills**, we have **6 vocational centers in Pakistan**.
* **50 hand pumps** in remote villages which give villagers access to **clean water**.
* During **Ramadan**, in addition to our normal activities, we go the extra mile to provide **food rations to needy families, biryani distributions in needy areas, new Eid clothes for the children of our schools, and community iftars for the children of our schools and our families**. In summary, this Ramadan we were able to accomplish the following:
* **16,000 total biryanis and iftars** were distributed house to house
* **2,000 children total received Eid clothes**, jewelry, and gifts
* **2,800 children** and adults participated in **community iftars**
* **1,500 families** were given **food rations** for one month
* Last but not least, we collect donations for **Qurbani** during Eid ul Adha and distribute the meat to needy people in Pakistan.

**“The Grocery Project” for Kachra Kundi, Thatta, and Gadap**

* The credit for today goes to Fareda Aunty who was kind enough to give me (and HOPE USA) an opportunity to be heard three years ago and then again today.
* MashaAllah she saw some very moving pictures that were captured by our very talented photographer in Pakistan, Saira, and she thought of making a difference beyond what is normally called for.
* I have called her idea “The Grocery Project” for Kachra Kundi, Thatta, and Gadap.

Let’s turn to my computer for a second and see the pictures which spurred her to action:

* These pictures are from this past Ramadan when HOPE teamed up with RobinHood to distribute biryani to needy people all over Pakistan.
* In the first two or three weeks of Ramadan we were able to distribute biryani to **390 individuals per day**, and in the
* Final week of Ramadan we were fortunate enough to increase that to **590 biryanis** per day along with **150 bottles of water**.

**Facts about Kachra Kundi:**

* The village in these pictures is quite surprisingly called Kachra Kundi. Sadly, as many of you know, this literally translates to “garbage bin” in Urdu. The village is about **1 hour away from Karachi**
* Garbage from the huge city of Karachi is dumped in Kachra Kundi on a daily basis.
* **1000 families live in Kachra Kundi and they earn their livelihood by digging through the garbage for food or to find things to recycle which can then turn into a small income for them**. They literally rely on the waste produced and dumped from Karachi.
* HOPE runs 2 **Mobile Health Units** which travel to about **30 villages** on the outskirts of Karachi on a bimonthly basis. Doctors staff the Mobile Health Units on a rotational basis and the residents of these villages are able to receive medical treatment for free for themselves and their children:
  + Annually, both of our Mobile Health Units treat **70,000 patients for free**.
  + Per day, each MHU treats at least 80 to 100 people for Kachra Kundi or other similar villages
* To obtain water, the villagers walk for miles to purchase tankers for loan which they repay for months
* Diseases and epidemics are common. They suffer from:
  + **Skin infections**
  + **Diarrhea**
  + **Asthma and other lung problems**
  + **Malnutrition (obviously)**

The HOPE Pakistan team did an excellent job to gather a Needs Assessment Survey of some very poor families of **Kachri Kundi** along with **Thatta** and **Gadap**. We learned about Kachra Kundi above, here is some information about Thatta and Gadap:

* **Thatta:** 
  + Rural Thatta is located approximately 62 miles from Karachi and has a population of **225,000**.
  + **HOPE** has a strong presence in Thatta via the establishment of a **hospital** (213,000 patients treated in 2017), **community center, formal school (340 students), informal schools, and a vocational center (223 students served in 2017**).
* **Gadap:**
  + Gadap is a town to the northwest outskirts of Karachi along the Hub river which consists of **400** rural villages
  + Many of these villages do not have basics such as electricity and running water.
  + **Diseases** are common due to poor hygiene and sanitation facilities and lack of clean drinking water.
  + In 2010, HOPE was able to open a **basic health unit** in the Hub area with support from Asia Petroleum. This facility treats over 13,000 patients annually for free.

Please turn your attention to the printout of the Needs Assessment Survey. This survey represents the neediest families in the areas HOPE has a presence.

* As you can see, there are **5 families** for **Kachra Kundi**.
  + They range from having 4 members in their family to having 13 members in the family.
  + Only the family with 13 members has 2 people who are earning, the rest only have 1. If you look at the earnings of these people, it is truly shocking and one really wonders how they are surviving. It explains the plight of the pictures.
    - The family with **13 members is earning 7000 PKR ($47 USD)** per month,
    - The lowest income is the family of **4 with just 3000 PKR ($20 USD) per month**.
    - The family with **9 members is earning a mere 3000 PKR ($20 USD)** as well.
    - You could almost joke that the other family with **4 members** is doing relatively well at **6000 PKR ($40) per month**.
    - You will notice that out of **26 children in the families, only 2 are attending school**.
    - All of them are renting their homes. It is truly a wonder how they are able to feed themselves, pay for rent, clothe themselves.
  + Yesterday, the PKR to USD exchange rate capped at 157.8 PKR to **$1** USD. Suppose we round to **150 PKR** for the sake of ease.
    - The most needy family in Kachra Kundi is earning **$20 per month to support 9 people**.
    - The most “wealthy” family in Kachra Kundi is earning **$47 (rounded) to support 13 people.**
    - This is an average of **$2.22 per month per person to $3.67 per month per person**.

Thatta and Gadap are similar in the fact that they are also poverty-stricken, however they have better conditions in terms of sanitation.

* In Gadap, there is a family with **5 people with absolutely 0 (zero) income**.
* Also, in another family in Gadap, a family of **10 people**, there is 1 member earning money and that person is **blind**. Somehow they still manage to bring in **10,000 PKR per month (about $67 USD)**.
* In Thatta we have two families earning **$33 per month to support 10 and 8 people respectively**. This is about **$3 per person per month for these families**.
* For the “wealthier” families in Thatta, we have incomes of **$67 per month to support 15 people and 9 people** respectively. This is between **$4.44 per month per person to $7.70 per person per month**.
* There is a family in Thatta which own their own kacha ghar (rudimentary house) which is definitely an accomplishment, but unfortunately all of their income must have been used in obtaining ownership and they have an income of $0.
* There are a total of 4 families in the survey which are fortunate to actually own their own kacha ghar. Let’s be facetious and refer to them as the wealthy families since they are not dependent on a landlord.
  + Mr. Javed’s family of 7 in Thatta gets by on $4.76 per person per month.
  + Mr. AllahDino’s family of 5 does not have an income, but at least they do not have to worry about rent.
  + Mr. Uzairullah’s family of 12 gets by on $5.56 per person per month.
  + Lastly, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Bin’s family of 10 gets by on $6.67 per month per person.
  + So the “richest” (I am being sarcastic of course) family in our survey is Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Bin’s family, where the members survive on 22 cents per day. Compare this to the poorest family in our survey which is surviving on 7 cents per day.

**Take Action:**

Okay so we served some lucky people in these villages a rare meal of biryani this Ramadan. True they may have enjoyed one meal of biryani this Ramadan, but what about the rest of the year? We look at these statistics and inevitably feel sorrow and want to help. But it truly takes a special person to take the initiative and see what more can be done and take action. Now this is where Fareda Aunty approached me with the brilliant idea of providing grocery or food assistance to these families to help them in their fight to nourish their families. As you can see from the pictures, they clearly are lacking food and proper nutrition. Malnutrition and diarrhea are among the most common illnesses treated in our Mobile Health Units – this is probably because the children and adults of these villages are scrimmaging amongst unsanitary conditions to scrape together food. It is no wonder so few children are going to school and most barely have clothes on. These people are probably lucky to eat once a day or once every other day. At this point, they are in survival mode and need help.

With Fareda Aunty’s advice, we thought of helping as many families as we can with the **“Grocery Project for Kachra Kundi, Thatta, and Gadap.”**

* This project would be similar to the rations we distribute to needy families in Ramadan. Each family would receive a monthly ration of rice, dal (lentils), oil, sugar, salt, tea, and flour.
* At the very least this project would help these families provide nutritious meals for their children which include protein and needed vitamins.
* We are estimating the cost of basic rations for a family of 6 at $15 per month. With this, we would provide the following groceries:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S No. | Item | Quantity |
| 1. | Flour | 10 kg |
| 2. | Rice | 5 kg |
| 3. | Pulses | 3 kg |
| 4. | Cooking oil | 5 kg |
| 5. | Salt | 1 kg |
| 6. | Sugar | 2 kg |
| 6. | Tea leaves | ½ kg |

* Groceries will be delivered to the households once per month
* With the donations we collect, we can spread the **grocery deliveries to several families over several months**. As we mentioned earlier, HOPE has a presence in Kachra Kundi through its Mobile Health Unit and in Thatta through a formal school, hospital, informal schools, community center, and vocational center and in Gadap through its Basic Health Unit.
* I am hoping to be able to provide you **updates** on these families regularly and send you **pictures** and let you know how they are doing.
* In shaa Allah with your good intentions and your help, we will be able to see these families being fed, and as a result their health will improve, and they will be able to focus on having their children attend HOPE schools and vocational centers.

**Conclusion:**

The end goal is for them to be **free of poverty**. But as with everything, **baby steps and patience are key**. When they are fighting to survive, it is difficult to have them see the bigger goals in life such as obtaining an education or getting vocational training. Maybe we can help them with this struggle and soon they will be able to help themselves.

There are actually two other Muslim women besides Fareda Aunty who I wanted to acknowledge (although anonymously). I did not ask them if I could name them, so for right now I will keep them anonymous. They expressed the same concerns at seeing those pictures and wanted to help these villagers. In fact they are the first ones who contributed towards the project and have already mailed a check for $1000 to HOPE USA. In shaa Allah we are looking forward to helping these villagers for many months with their donation and I hope they earn endless rewards in this life and the hereafter. Ameen.

Thank you all sincerely for listening patiently to my presentation and I ask forgiveness for any oversights. I hope everyone learned something and can walk away with some gained knowledge. For those who would like to be a part of this project, I thank you sincerely. You can either write a **check to HOPE USA and put “Grocery Project”** in the memo, or you can donate directly on our website at <https://www.hopecharityusa.org> For donations on our website, you may select the “Sadaqa” option, but please inform me so that I can make sure that your donation will go towards directly assisting these families. Lastly, I would ask you to provide me with your **email address and cell phone number** so that I can inform you of **updates through our HOPE emails and/or a WhatsApp group**.