



## *Winter Appeal 2020-21 in Pakistan*

### *Report for Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Foundation USA*



**Registered Charity (UK), No. 282303**

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## **Winter Appeal 2020-21**

***As the temperatures plummeted this past winter, hundreds of thousands of families faced a daily battle to stay alive without the heating, food, and clothing they desperately needed. Winter generally brings higher expenses, such as heating bills and warm clothes, but for families who already struggle throughout the year, they can't afford the higher bills. They risk illnesses, and potentially, death. Refugees, who have no option but to live in make-shift shelters, exposed to the elements, are left to worry if their children will die from freezing or starving to death.***

***WF-AID worked in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and the United Kingdom to distribute winter essentials to help families through these bitter months.***

***With respect to Pakistan, we would like to particularly thank the Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Foundation USA for their generous contribution of USD \$16,800 for our Phase 2 distribution of winter essentials in northern areas of Pakistan, including Parachinar, D.I. Khan, Skardu, Gilgit, Astore and Mianwali. This consisted of winter warmer packs including warm, woollen shawls and salwars, following the Phase 1 distribution of blankets and jumpers in Parachinar and Mianwali. The woollen material of clothing that we selected can be used continuously throughout the cold months for 2-3 years, ensuring the sustainability of the initiative.***

***Our ground partners made a journey of approx. 22 hours by vehicle to the northern areas, and a further 40km by foot due to road closures resulting from heavy snow to reach beneficiaries cut off from the outside world.***

***Without this relief and with no other defence against the bitterly cold conditions, the reality was that the vulnerable individuals living in this part of the world could have died from the lack of heating, heightened vulnerability and poor infrastructure. However, with this support, the beneficiaries were able to keep warm and in good physical and mental state to go about their normal activities.***





## **Location Information**

***The aforementioned locations where WF-AID's ground partner conducted the distribution are all either overwhelmingly Shia or have a significant minority of Shia population, most of whom have suffered persecution or are currently in a destitute condition.***

### **Parachinar:**

***This is a town in the province of Khyber Paktunkhwa and is the capital of Kurram District. The town is connected to Afghanistan by the Peiwar Pass, a strategic valley located 20km west of Parachinar, where heavy snowfall closes the region for up to five months per year. The town has been frequently hit by terrorist attacks against the Shia population, with over 500 people being killed since 2007. This has left numerous widows and orphans without any support. Due to the geography being on a hilly area, Parachinar has extreme climates, with harsh winters and hot summers.***

### **Gilgit Baltistan:**

***This is the northernmost territory administered by Pakistan part of the greater Kashmir region on the China and Afghanistan border, where the Hindu Kush mountains and the K2 peak are. The towns of Skardu, Gilgit and Astore are all part of this region where the ground agency is targeting the relief efforts. These areas suffer from extremely cold temperatures in the winter, where it often remains cold during the nights even in summer. Snow is common for four months.***

### **District Mianwali:**

***Located in Punjab Province, this hilly area suffers from temperatures extremes - with long, hot summers and cold, dry winters. It is a remote one of the poorest districts in Punjab. Most of the Shia population are settled near the River Indus, where they suffer from loss of property and life each time the flood banks break.***



## Distribution

***The winter clothing packs were distributed to 1,000 needy individuals in northern provinces and territories of Pakistan - namely Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab. Local representatives from each region prepared a list of those most needy and deserving of the winter clothing packs, such as the elderly and poor and set about preparing the packs. The breakdown of the distribution is as follows:***

### Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- Parachinar - 250 bags
- D.I. Khan - 75 bags

### Gilgit-Baltistan

- Skardu - 200 bags
- Gilgit - 200 bags
- Astore - 200 bags

### Punjab

- Mianwali - 75 bags





**Above two pictures: Distribution in KPK and the embedded logo on a shawl.**

***Each bag consisted of a shawl/salwar (depending on the beneficiaries' gender) and an item of warm clothing, such as a jumper. The cost of a shawl/salwar was approx. \$7.53 and an item on clothing on average \$6.90.***

Item Description	Quantity	Total Cost USD (\$)
Shawls	1000	7,525.88
Warm Clothing	1000	6,898.71
Printing bags and stickers	-	303.54
Distribution Expense	-	1,335.84
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,063.97</b>

\*additional expense of \$63.97 was covered by the ground partners.

***This worked out at the cost of under \$17 to keep one individual warm from the bitterly cold conditions of northern Pakistan!***



## **Beneficiary Stories**

***The following are real stories of individuals benefitting from the winter packs.***

### **Sher Muhammad, District Mianwali**

Sher Muhammad is the head of his family. His family numbers seven – himself and his wife, their 4 daughters and 1 son. He is 50 years old. He is a local tailor master in his village. Sher Muhammad is a very simple and pious man. Over the last few years, his eye sight has been decreasing continuously. Now, he is facing difficulty in his profession. His family expenditures are more than his income. For the cold days of winter, he had one shawl and one old torn sweater. When we handed him the winter pack, he was surprised and then started praying extensively for all those who had given these for his family. He was very glad and enthusiastic.

### **Family of Shaheed Naik Aalam, District Astore**

Shaheed Naik Aalam was a resident of Hamrohi village in District Astore, Gilgit-Baltistan. He was the eldest son to his parents. He stopped his education to earn for his family as his father was a labourer but could not cover the family expenditures. He purchased a used car to use as a taxi, paying the owner in instalments. One day when he was coming back to his village from work in Rawalpindi, his car was stopped by terrorists who identified him as a Shia. He was brutally killed by them. He left behind aged parents, 2 younger brothers and 5 innocent children. The owner of the taxi took it back from the family.

When we provided winter support for his family. they started weeping and could not believe that someone had sent this for them.

### **Syed Mehboob Ali, Parachinar**

Syed Mehboob Ali is a 70 year old man with 7 daughters and 1 son, Syed Sajid Hussain. At the age of 18, Sajid Hussain decided to help his old father as he was aged and needed to support a large family. He was a general labourer and then a driver. One day while taking his van back to his village from Kohat to Parachinar, he was killed by terrorists who had identified him as a Shia. His family, including his sisters were devastated.

When we helped Mehmood Ali, he was weeping and praying with open arms – "May Almighty Allah (SWT) reward a great deal to those who helped others during a time of need."





**More distribution pictures, showing the conditions of the homes of the beneficiaries, which are completely exposed to the cold air**





**“The best among you are those  
who bring the greatest benefit  
to others.”  
- Prophet Muhammad (SAWW)**

