

## **DISABILITY MANAGEMENT CENTRE – A PROJECT OF VISION HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**

### **Context**

According to the **World Report on Disability, 2011**, about 15% of the world's population (over 1 billion) lives with some form of disability<sup>1</sup> - which fits the above definition with a mild, moderate, or severe nature. The global prevalence of disability increases with age, rising from 5.8% in children and adolescents aged 0-14 to 34.4% among older adults aged >60 years. This indicates that 1 in 3 older adults is a person with a disability. Global estimates indicate that 14.2% of the male population have a disability compared to 18% of the female population. A global report entitled '**The Missing Billion – Access to Health Services for 1 Billion People with Disabilities**'<sup>2</sup> that was launched in 2019 highlighted that i) persons with disabilities face higher healthcare needs, more barriers to accessing services, and lesser health coverage, resulting in worse health outcomes; ii) have twice the risk of developing conditions such as depression, asthma, diabetes, stroke, obesity or poor oral health; iii) 3 X more likely to have diabetes and 50 X more likely to have catastrophic health expenditure. WHO recently launched its **Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities 2022**<sup>3</sup>. Its overarching aim is to make health equity for people with disabilities a global health priority.

### **Disability in Pakistan**

In 2011, the **Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund** undertook a comprehensive survey (carpet survey of all individuals in all households) of 23 union councils in seven districts of Pakistan, comprising about 80,000 households with 430,000 individuals, and found that the prevalence of people who were disabled was 8%<sup>4</sup>. The prevalence of disabilities was 12% (10% mild-moderate disabilities and 2% severe disabilities) – the difference is because a person who is disabled may have more than one disability. A recent **Rapid Assistive Technology Assessment (rATA)**<sup>5</sup> in Pakistan revealed that 8.5% of the population reported difficulty in at least one functional domain. A **Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness Survey**<sup>6</sup> conducted in 2019 – 2022 in 15 districts across 4 provinces indicated that 1.83% of people aged 50 years and above were blind while 2.02% had severe vision impairment. The commonest causes of vision impairment were refractive errors and cataract.

### **Vision Healthcare Foundation**

Vision Healthcare Foundation<sup>7</sup> is registered with the **Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)** under Section 42 of the Company Act, 2017. The key objective of the Foundation is to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD), and Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC). The Foundation aims to work with the Government, NGOs, Corporations, individual donors, and community members to establish a safe space for those who are differently abled by addressing all forms of disability (given the support and availability of resources) and create accessible services for those that need them the most.

### **Project Area**

The project area is **Tehsil (Sub-district) Pindi Gheb, District Attock**, Province of Punjab, Pakistan. The project site is 17 acres of land (bought by and leased to the Foundation) and is about an hour's driving distance from Islamabad, along M14 towards Dera Ismail Khan.

### **Need**

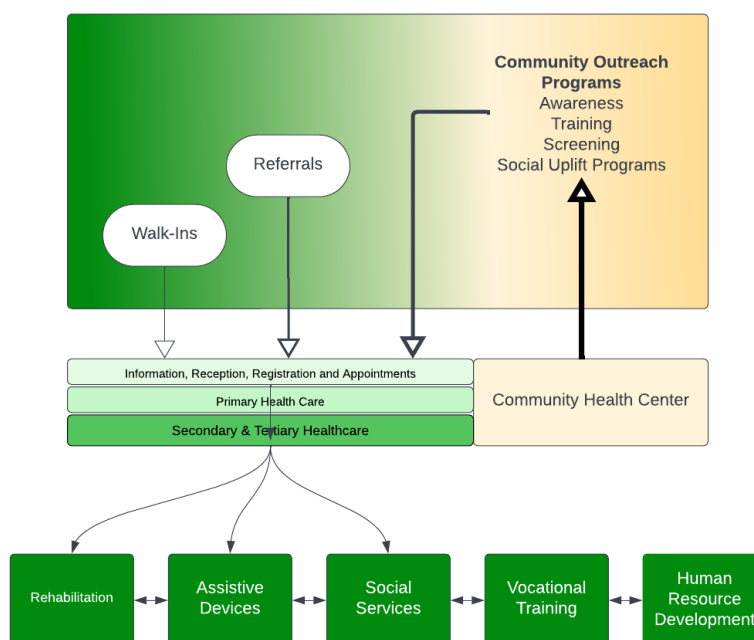
According to the **Pakistan Population Census 2017**<sup>8</sup>, the population of Attock district is estimated at about 1.9 million. Pindi Gheb Tehsil has a population of about 272,000. Based on the prevalence data of 8% of people who are disabled, there are likely 152,000 people who are disabled in Attock district and 21,760 in Pindi Gheb Tehsil. Apart from the very limited services provided by the Social Welfare Department and medical and social services at sub-district hospitals in the Attock district, there are no comprehensive rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

### **Project Objectives**

- **Establish** a Disability Management Centre (DMC) with a comprehensive all-under-one-roof approach.
- **Provide** a continuum of primary, secondary and tertiary care rehabilitation services in a phased manner for people with disabilities.
- **Conduct** community outreach services to create awareness, screen for disabilities and establish a referral pathway with DMC and other referral services.

### Phased development plan of DMC

DMC will be developed in phases. It will include triaging and referral for appropriate treatment and rehabilitation. The services intended to be provided by DMC are summarised in the graphic presented below.



### Administrative Matters

The project will seek NOC from the district health authority, Attock District.

### Financials

At this initial stage, the project foresees a total cost of 25 million PKR for the planning and Design Phase. Once the architectural master plan is ready, we may further estimate the construction and commissioning phases. The VHCF is managing the administrative and management costs.

### Sustainability Plan

1. Invitations for **endowment** and sponsoring blocks by corporates and philanthropists would be actively sought.
2. The foundation will actively conduct **fundraising** through **digital marketing** and approaching the **corporate** sector, **INGOs**, and other **donor agencies**.
3. The foundation will create a sustainable model for the **optical** and **hearing** aid lab. The **sale of optical, hearing aids** and **medications** has tremendous potential for revenue generation.
4. **Mart, Clubhouse, Restaurants**, etc can be an internal revenue source.
5. The **HRD** activities have a high potential of fund generation collected as fees.
6. The foundation will get registered with government regulatory authorities like EAD and PCP to facilitate **overseas funding**.
7. The foundation would set aside a small percentage of funds for '**Social Enterprise**' activities overseen by experts in creating and managing **small to medium-sized enterprises**.
8. This activity shall also go a long way toward promoting **employment opportunities** for Persons with disabilities and becoming a **source of income** for the foundation.
9. The foundation will seek approval/NOC from district health authorities for project execution in Pindigheb Tehsil, Attock district. The project will develop a strong liaison with district health authorities (CEO Health Office, Social Welfare Department, IRMNCH, and others) for effective and efficient project implementation and develop a referral support network. The project will also train district officials in disability-inclusive practices.

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> The Missing Billion – Access to health services for 1 billion people with disabilities, July 2019. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/TheMissingBillion> Accessed on 4th September 2023
- <sup>3</sup> WHO Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities, 2022. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600> Accessed on 4th September 2023
- <sup>4</sup> Documentation of Disability Data, 2011. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. [https://www.ppaf.org.pk/doc/Disability/50-DOCUMENTATION\\_OF\\_DISABILITY\\_DATA.pdf](https://www.ppaf.org.pk/doc/Disability/50-DOCUMENTATION_OF_DISABILITY_DATA.pdf) Accessed on 4th September 2023
- <sup>5</sup> Baseline Survey in Pakistan. Rapid Assistive Technology Assessment (rATA). Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan, and WHO. 2021. [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/assistive-technology-2/base-line-survey-in-pakistans.pdf?sfvrsn=3ed8c9a8\\_11](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/assistive-technology-2/base-line-survey-in-pakistans.pdf?sfvrsn=3ed8c9a8_11) Accessed on 4th September 2023
- <sup>6</sup> Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) Report of 15 Districts, 2023. National Committee for Eye Health, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan
- <sup>7</sup> Vision Healthcare Foundation. <https://vhc-foundation.org/> Accessed on 4th September 2023
- <sup>8</sup> Pakistan Bureau of Statistics - 6th Population & Housing Census 2017 [https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/2017/punjab\\_tehsil.pdf](https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/2017/punjab_tehsil.pdf) Accessed on 4th September 2023