

## **PROGRESS REPORT 2007**

- The year 2007 began on a high note with a Telethon that was held in January on PTV. The event had a two-fold purpose, primarily to create awareness about the work being done by the NGO and secondly to raise funds.
- In February DSF in collaboration with Smileagain Italy, developed a scheme whereby ten female burn survivors would be sent to Italy for a technical training in various fields like nursing, specialized treatments to be used in beauty salon.
- DSF also initiated a programme to train ten burn survivors in the art of gardening in Lahore. With the help of Mr. Peter of Netherlands who is currently residing in Lahore and who has been successfully growing exotic lilies and tulips, the NGO developed the idea so as burn survivors can earn an income from their own homes and not be a burden to their families.
- Masarrat also embarked on a mission to impart information to the student community. She gave a presentation to students of LUMS and to the O level group of a branch of the Beacon House School System. Besides the lecture series, Masarrat was also invited to speak on the issue on Aaj TV as well as Geo in its weekly programme Hina Key Saath. The latter had a two episode programme to discuss the problem at length.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> of March the DSF team along with four of the ten girls selected, left for Italy. They have been settled in Paganica, a town in Abruzzo region (North of Italy), with the help of the president of the region Mrs. Stefania Pazzapane. The school for their training programme is in L'aquila. It is a center for skill development and goes by the name "Direzione Risorse Umane".
  - On 5<sup>th</sup> March, Massarat who had embarked on an awareness programme in Lahore where she spoke to students continued this programme in Italy where she visited 3 High Schools and met the student community to talk about activities of Smileagain and showing of La7 documentary.

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- The team returned on 11th March 2007 but the first batch under training is due after May this year when subsequently the next batch will leave for Italy. There were several meetings that Ms. Massarat attended and which proved to be extremely interesting in Italy.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> March she met Mrs Mimma Miani, President of the Commission for Sport and Culture (Town Council of Rome) and Mr Fabrizio Grossi, Town Councillor for Work and Social politics
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March there was a Press Conference with Mr. Enrico Gasbarra, President of the Province of Rome and Mr Adriano Labbucci, President of the Provincial Council. Later that day there was the Launching Ceremony of the book “Sorridimi ancora”. Mrs Olga D’Antona and Mrs Vladimir Luxuria, Deputies of the Parliament. Prof. Fabienne Charlotte Oräzie Vallino, chair of Political and Economic Geography, Environmental Politics, University of Viterbo and Mrs Maria Carmela Leto, Director of “Giulio Perrone Editore” publishing house were present on the occasion.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> March Masarrat had an Audience with the Pope at the Vatican. The same evening there was a Charity performance “Insieme per la solidarietà e contro ogni barriera” at the prestigious Auditorium Conciliazione. It was by the initiation of Clarice Felli, President Smilegain Italy, and Ms Masarrat Misbah, as President of Smileagain-Pakistan, was invited to speak about her activities in favour of children on Italian Television.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> March A Press Conference took place to begin the Project “Tornare a sorridere” and launching of the book “Sorridimi ancora” in L’Aquila. Mrs Stefania Pezzopane, President of L’Aquila Province. Mrs Teresa Nannarone, Town Councillor for Social Politics, L’Aquila Province. Mr Tiziano Amorosi, Manager of the Work and Social Politics area, L’Aquila Province attended the event.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2007 A Press Conference with Mr Giuseppe Mariani, President of the Regional Council for Work, Equal Opportunities, and Youth Policies. Representative of OMNIROMA, local newspaper. Representative of area, local radio were present.
- Masarrat had a coffee morning session with about 30 women to introduce her project in Dubai en route to Pakistan.

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- Pakistan Association Ladies Wing Dubai had arranged an evening with Zille Huma. Masarrat spoke to the audience of about 400 people. Ambassador of Pakistan was also present.
- This was followed by a live show on ARY Dubai "Morning with Nadia Khan". Masarrat spoke for about 1 hour on her various projects that DSF has undertaken.
- A meeting with the British Ambassador in Abu Dhabi over breakfast and briefed him about the project. He assured his full co-operation and also ensured that he would coordinate with his counterpart in Pakistan to provide support.
- Met with an influential person who was directed by the Sheikh to furbish and provide details of the project on a specific form so that assistance from UAE Government may be made available.
- Masarrat met with representative of "Gulf News" and her interview was published, on 18<sup>th</sup> March returned to Lahore
- On 7<sup>th</sup> April the newly established American chapter of DSF visited Pakistan for the first time. The team comprised Dr Hussain Haideri President of the US chapter and Mr. Shahzad Ghafoor, Attorney and member Board of Directors for the same. They were accompanied by were Ms Abigail Hoya of the American Medical Missions and Ms Elisabeth Alex of NBC television.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> April American delegates spent the day with the DSF team at a camp organized for burn survivors where some old patients came for follow up checks ups and new comers were registered and enlisted for medical treatment.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> April the US delegates met the Governor Punjab Mr Khalid Maqbool and visited Fatima Memorial Hospital in Lahore.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> April the team left for Islamabad and met politician – philanthropist Imran Khan who has established the finest cancer research hospital, Shaukat Khannum Memorial Trust Hospital.
- The American delegates left Pakistan on 12<sup>th</sup> April

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- On 28 April the French team arrived in Islamabad to perform regular surgeries. They looked up old patients, performed surgeries and saw new patients that have been registered with the NGO since their last visit. 17 operations were conducted during this visit.
- The Italian team of doctors arrived early in Lahore on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. They were Losasso Giuseppe, Pasquini Fabrizio, Pezzini Ilaria, Lenarduzzi Angela, Volpin Enrico The team conducted OPD during the day at the Depilex outlet on M. M. Alam Road. Some 20 patients were examined while four new patients were registered with the NGO.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> May they began examination of old patients and 7 operations were conducted during their stay at the Fatima Memorial Trust Hospital in Lahore
- The Italian team leaves on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- A Free Camp was organized for the registration and checkup of patients. In which old patients were called & some new patients were also registered for the surgery by the Italian team in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2007 under the supervision of Dr. Tasneem Ellahi.
- The Italian team of doctors arrived in Lahore. The team conducted a free camp on the first day & examines all the patients & selected the 8 patients for the surgery at Fatima Memorial Hospital Lahore. The team of doctors was consisted on Dr. Lassasso Giuseppe, Dr. Parodi Piercammilo & Dr. Schiavon Giancarlo.
- The Names of the patients operated at FMH are as follows:
  - Nasreen Akhtar,
  - Iram Bibi
  - Shamim Akhtar
  - Nasreen Sharif,
  - Shahnaz Usman
  - Saira Liaquat
  - Attia Khalil
  - Shabana Kausar
- Masarrat embarked on a mission to impart information to the student community. She visited Lahore Grammar School, which is located in Defence, Lahore and gave a presentation to the students. She also met the  
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student community to raise awareness among them about the cause and objectives of Depilex Smileagain Foundation. She also highlighted the role of youngsters in development of good manners in society.

- The President and Director of DSF visited New York, Atlanta, Venice & Dubai.
- Pakistan Women Forum invited DSF to Kuwait and arranged a fundraiser with the help of Pakistani community to highlight the cause and perspectives of the Foundation. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Aslam The Pakistani Ambassador in Kuwait was also present in the fundraiser and delivered a speech on the occasion. Masarrat Misbah spoke on the occasion about the project particularly about the “International Center for Reconstructive Surgery, Rehabilitation & Vocational Training” that has been taken on in Pakistan. The audience was consisted of 300 people. 3 paintings were sold out during the function. The role of DSF in concern with helping burn survivors was much appreciated by the audience. The Pakistani Women Forum donated a certain amount with the help of Pakistani community.