



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

### **PAKISTAN PROVINCIAL ACTION-PLANS - Provincial Parliamentary Seminar on HIV & AIDS Policy** **Karachi, Pakistan January 30-31, 2006 - Day 1: Regent Plaza Hotel, Day 2: Aga Khan University**

#### **Sindh**

Members of the working group for the Province of Sindh lead by Mr. Talib, Imam, MPA, highlighted four key areas of work that they would undertake after the Seminar: 1) Legislation, 2) Awareness-Raising, 3) Policy-Making, and 4) Implementation and Monitoring. They selected the five priority districts of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sanghar, Larkana, and Jamshoro – Sehwan and elected Syed Talib Imam, MPA and Ms. Nuzhat Pathan, MPA to be Coordinators of the post-Seminar work-plan. The members committed to meet two weeks after the conference to discuss the formation of a Provincial Committee on HIV & AIDS and the terms of reference for the group. They also planned to prepare a work-plan for 2006 at that time. They promised to carry out training programmes twice during 2006 and agreed that the Sindh AIDS Control Programme (SACP) would provide space for the secretariat for the committee and would communicate with coordinators on a monthly basis about any latest developments to the implementation of their work-plan.

#### **North West Frontier Province**

The members of the working group for the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), under the leadership of Dr. Simin Mehmood Jan, MPA, committed to provide a briefing to the NWFP Provincial Assembly on HIV & AIDS, acknowledging that provincial parliamentarians should formulate policy and legislation and allocate special funds in the provincial budget and in related Ministries. They expressed the need for a parliamentarian's committee on HIV & AIDS to be formed at the District Level and that religious leaders should be delegated key, awareness-raising responsibilities by MPAs. The group members said that MPAs should speak openly in the Assembly and with each other about issues relating to HIV & AIDS and that they should involve local populations and influential figures to assist with campaigns in the local languages. They pledged to include parliamentarians representing rural areas and other public representatives in future meetings, to promote positive attitudes towards PLWHA, and to make information on the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV & AIDS accessible by speaking with the press and facilitating the production of printed material. The group committed to preparing legislation related to the role of migration in the spread of HIV, to work against unemployment, and to hold seminars and workshops to raise awareness of parliamentarians and the general public. Finally, the NWFP members stated that they would integrate cultural and religious values in all aspects of their action-plan, ensuring that television programmes designed to raise awareness reflect these values.

#### **Balochistan**

Balochistan working group members, under the direction of Hon. Hafiz Hamdullah, MPA, Health Minister, agreed upon the following four action-oriented goals for the Provincial Assembly: 1) Promote awareness of HIV & AIDS in the Assembly, 2) Hold special Assembly sessions to raise awareness of HIV & AIDS, 3) Encourage all 65 members of the Assembly to work in their constituencies on making information available on the virus, and to 4) Empower District Nazims and Councilors to take the lead in discussing HIV & AIDS their districts. The Balochistan group cited the media as a key collaborating partner for MPAs to work with to organize press conferences for future seminars and workshops. They highlighted the need to educate and involve religious leaders from every district so that they could become involved in education campaigns on HIV. Like the Sindh group, the Balochistan MPAs selected the three districts of Quetta, Turbat, and Makran Division in which to prioritize their work.

#### **Punjab**

The Province of Punjab working group members with head, Dr. Muzzafar Ali, MPA-Chairman, Standing Committee on Health, plan to delegate responsibility of awareness-raising to the Tehsil and Union Council levels and will create Town Halls and Youth Advocacy groups. They would like to involve the already existing Lady Health Workers in Community Awareness campaigns along with other volunteers, MPAs, and Nazims. The group committed to facilitate the training of teachers at primary and university levels. They would like to have religious leaders participate in advocacy efforts, with mosques serving as focal locations for outreach. Punjabi members pledged that at the DHQ level, clinics should be adequately set-up to provide treatments for PLWHAs. They stressed that collaborative efforts with private testing centers are necessary and that allocations should be made for subsidized testing. They would like to see increased outreach to Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) at key sites including shrines, tombs, and graveyards. Finally, the Punjab working group plans to promote the use and adequate supply of condoms and would like to have Combined Military Hospitals and Military Hospitals provide free HIV tests and contraceptive supplies. They selected the following Districts as top priority for their post-conference work: Lahore, Multan, Hafizabad, Kasur, Narowal, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Rajenpur, and Jhelum.