

Girl child provided treatment for “Third Degree Burns” through Referral Mechanism - (Success Story)

Waheeda, a 3 year old returnee girl bearing third degree burn on her skull lives in joint family system with her 3 siblings, parents and grandparents in village Gowder. Gowder is situated at about 24 kilometer towards North-West from Tehsil Head Quarter Hospital Sadda Central Kurram Tribal District-Pakistan. The Village is comprised of about 740 houses. People are living in joint family system. Houses are stone and mud made. People mostly depend on local remittances. Some of them live abroad and earn their bread and butter.

The village lack proper agricultural land, markets, electricity and government health facility, only one primary school for boys and one primary school for girls are situated in the middle of the village. The livelihoods of People mainly come from livestock in the form of milk and milk byproducts, fruit orchards and honey bee keeping.

The victim’s father is very poor. He is a local Shepard and remains out in the grazing fields with his flock from dawn to dusk while her mother is engaged in farm and domestic activities while to ensure her family food security and expand income sources. They hardly meet their house hold consumptions.



The little Child was playing around the fire at home at a snowy day and suddenly fell down in the burning fire and got burns on her head. Her grandmother was at home; she quickly picked her and covered her head with a piece of cloth. A

For her grandmother, it was very hard to rush the victim to the tertiary care hospital situated at a long distance so she brought her to Community Health Center (CHC)-Gowder where Society for Human & Environmental Development (SHED) with financial support from Pakistan Humanitarian pool Fund (PHPF) provides integrated primary health services for free to the socially deprived people living in the area under the primary health project entitled “*To revitalize the health system in return areas of Tribal District Central Kurram to deliver life-saving health services to men, women, children to reduce morbidity and mortality*”

The three years burnt Waheeda was examined by Medical Officer and diagnosed as a third degree burn. The victim’s scalp was 60% burnt as seems in the picture. The patient was provided with first aid at the CHC and then was referred to District Head Quarter Hospital Parachinar, a tertiary care hospital, for further treatment in the project ambulance. In the hospital the patient was properly examined by the senior medical officer, her wound was cleansed with sterile normal saline thoroughly and all the dirt and burned hair were removed. The patient was admitted in the hospital for proper treatment and follow up visits by the senior doctors.

In-time referral of the patient to the tertiary care hospital prevented her from secondary infection and fluid losses. There is no set timeline for complete spontaneous healing for third-degree burns but the patient life is saved, senior medical officer added.

After two weeks, SHED health staff made a follow up visit and observed the patient, the wound partially got healed.

In follow up visit, her father was told to bring the victim child to the static medical camp for successive examination and routine checkups so as to prevent the wounds from further expansion. He principally agreed and repeatedly brought the victim child to the health facility. Routine checkups and extra care

gave her oxygen to live; she got conquered over the existing worst fear with her greatest strengths and now she is quite well.

“For my child the constant pillars of support were SHED and PHPF, thanks to their care giver team in supporting me. “I am very happy and pleased with the way they treated my child, thanks for the services, most of the people like us are very poor they have poor access to health facilities, they can’t bear the travelling and medicines costs, we hope for the continuation of this project so as to avail health services at our nearest health facilities- the victim child’s father added”

Pictorial Gallery:



Patient receives First Aid at CHC Gowder

Referring the patient to the tertiary care hospital



Patient receives medical care at tertiary care hospital, DHQ Parachinar