

PROGRESS REPORT 2008

- ❖ 2008 was the year of actions at DSF. By the Grace of God, we managed to help more victims than the previous years. 2008 was also the year DSF received unprecedented recognition for DSF the cause for which it stands. As always, I am greatly indebted to my team here at DSF, and to you all, for making what it is today.

- ❖ CEO, Masarrat Misbah and Directors of Depilex Smileagain Foundation visited USA for the awareness on acid thrown issues. A dinner was arranged in Orlando which was attended by a large number of Pakistani communities mostly comprising of doctors and their families. The CEO, Masarrat Misbah addressed the gathering and explained the cause of DSF. The response from the gathering was excellent and most of them assured to provide help and support. The gathering extolled the role of DSF in raising awareness among the people of society both at national and international platforms. Ms. Rubina, President of Pakistani community in Orlando paid tribute to the efforts made by Masarrat Misbah by helping the burn victims. Director of DSF were also invited by the Medical Mission USA in Kansas. The program was delightfully organized by Elizabeth Alex.

- ❖ A marvelous event "An Italian Opera" was arranged at Sheraton Hotel, Karachi and in Islamabad, which included performance by renowned Italian Artists, followed by a scrumptious Italian dinner. Both the events were organized by Rotary Club of Karachi Sunset Millennium. The funds were also raised in support of Depilex Smileagain Foundation. We highly acknowledge and appreciate the contribution made by the Rotary club, Karachi.

- ❖ The Chief Executive Officer and Project Director of Depilex Smileagain Foundation attended a meeting with the Italian Consulate and the officials of Govt. of Pakistan, regarding the hospital complex Project in Multan.

- ❖ A meeting hosted by Ayesha Sana was held to update all friends of DSF, in Pearl Continental hotel, Lahore. The guest speakers included Dr. Omar Adil, Dr. Hajra Tariq and Mian Zahid. DSF survivors who were given an opportunity to go on vocational training in Italy were presented certificates by Nazim, Faisalabad.

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- ❖ Two meetings of the Smileagain Supporters group (SAS) were held this year. Meetings were held at SAS head, Ayesha Sana and avid supporter Shehla Nayer's residence. DSF was introduced to new supporters and awareness campaigns were discussed.
- ❖ Nasreen and Erum DSF patients started their Braille training in early this year. These two survivors will return in Feb 2009.
- ❖ As part of the Awareness campaign, Depilex Smileagain Foundation's friends' meeting was held in Le Meridien hotel, Dubai. New friends were registered and Supports were given updates on the progress of DSF survivors.
- ❖ Various articles were published in a number of magazines and websites this year including, Washington Times, Vanity Fair, Yahoo, Grazia magazine. LA times, MSNBC, High Profile, The News, FaceOn, SHE, Sunday magazine (Daily times), S+ (Nation), Daily Waqt etc. The whole team of DSF would whole heartedly like to thank Toosi Nahal from associated press for all her support and effort in creating awareness all around the world.
- ❖ DSF's president Massarat Misbah and team was invited to Greece for a two hour live interview on Antenna TV to address the viewers and create Global Awareness about the plight of burnt victims. The response of the Television show was remarkable and Depilex Smileagain Foundation appreciates and acknowledges the contribution of Antenna Television in promoting the cause of DSF for which it stands...
- ❖ DSF team was invited to Italian Embassy, to discuss progress of hospital complex and to the Korean embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan to introduce the project. DSF was much appreciated and support for assistance in the project was extended.
- ❖ An OPD (check-up) was held in Lahore, Pakistan. The program was attended by 78 patients and their family members, 52 of which were new patients and 13 children. The OPD was conducted by Dr. Tasneem Ellahi (surgeon, Family Health Hospital, Islamabad), Dr. Abrar Peerzada (Reconstructive surgeon) and Dr. Abid Kazi (LRBT).
- ❖ A number of Punjab University students chose Depilex Smileagain Foundation as their final thesis of social work. They also invited DSF's President Masarrat Misbah to speak about the cause of DSF on 'Elimination of Violence against Women Day'.

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- ❖ We are also excited and grateful to announce that Mr. Milt Alvarez, a renowned Hollywood director visited the DSF headquarters in Lahore, Pakistan and vowed to make a documentary film on the work we are carrying out. The first part of which has recently been released on his website,
<http://www.planetblue.com/milt/pakistan.mov>
- ❖
 - He will return to Pakistan to shoot the remaining.
 - We are highly indebted to Mr. Milt Alvarez for his indispensable gift to our organization in creating global consciousness for people suffering from this heinous crime.
- ❖ An OPD (check-up) was also held in Karachi. The event mostly included women and children, with over 60% of them being victims of intentional domestic violence. The patients were registered for their respective surgeries and treatments. The medical examinations were conducted under the supervision of renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Mubroor Bhatti. Other doctors who were present on this occasion were Dr. Tasneem Ellahi, Dr. Khursheed Alam and Dr. Najam Qureshi
- ❖ Depilex Smileagain Foundation's team was invited to Garrison Army Club, Rawalpindi, to talk about DSF and awareness campaigns being carried out. The function was attended by 550 members of the club who promised to help eradicate this crime.
- ❖ Two Journalists, Ella and Adrian from the United Kingdom visited Lahore for the coverage of DSF.
- ❖ This year DSF has been given coverage by a number of websites, magazine and various channels from all over the globe which includes Voice of America, ABC, ARY, TV1, AAJ, HUM, PTV, ATV, DUNIYA NEWS, EXPRESS NEWS, DAWN NEWS, BUSINESS PLUS, and CITY 42. DSF would like to thank the media for their undying support in spreading awareness of this cause.

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- ❖ DSF's team was invited to a number of leading schools and universities for awareness. We would like to thank the Smileagain Supports Group (SAS) and all the students from BNU, Lahore College for women, LGS, LACAS (Johar Town, Lahore), Kinnaird College, Bahria University, Islamabad College for women, for their tremendous efforts. The support and the eagerness to understand our work, was heartwarming.
- ❖ To date 83 patients are at different stages of their surgeries. On an average one patient needs between 25 to 30 surgeries. 312 major surgeries have been performed and innumerable minor surgeries are carried out throughout the year.
- ❖ To date 398 patients are registered with Depilex Smileagain Foundation from all over Pakistan.