

## Paraplegic Centre operating almost on donations: report

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RAWALPINDI: From manpower — doctors, staff nurses, physiotherapists and psycho-sociologists — to rehabilitation equipment, the District Headquarters Hospital has received almost everything so far in the name of donation or volunteerism for paraplegics' treatment.

An audit report, the DHQ hospital has prepared on Paraplegic Care Centre here from November 20, 2005 to January 31, 2006, and attained by 'The News', has revealed this. The only Paraplegic Care Centre in the town developed by the DHQ hospital to facilitate paraplegics in the aftermath of October 8 quake had become operational on November 20, last year.

The audit report reveals that Non-Government Organisations have been paying Rs1,40,000 per month to one coordinator, four doctors, three staff nurses and three ward servants working at the Paraplegic Care Centre. The DHQ hospital has also been generating a sum of Rs85,000 — total amount required for pampers to be utilised by the paraplegics per month — through donations since the establishment of the centre.

The DHQ hospital received in donation 120 wheel chairs, 75 ripple mattresses — used to avoid bedsores to paraplegics — 40 ripple sheets, 30 technical pillows, six toilet chairs, 10 walkers, 10 new beds, 12 gas heaters, nine colour televisions, one 50-gallon gas geezer, 80 transfer boards, 14 separator screens, one ECG machine, six bobath beds, one set of exercise steps, 75 air cushions, six physio-mattresses and 100 blankets along with 20 pairs of foot support, the audit report has uncovered.

The hospital received technical instrument too for the treatment of paraplegics undergoing treatment here. The DHQ hospital had admitted 106 paraplegics in all in the aftermath of quake out of which 31

had left against medical advice (LAMA). Presently 73 paraplegics are being treated at the centre.

Other equipment received by the DHQ hospital in donation includes six Glucometers — used for check up of sugar level, two nebulisers (a device having face mask used to administer medicinal liquid to a patient through mouth or nose), 100 nelton catheters (tube to remove fluid from body cavity), 50 silicon catheters, 20 each boston brace jackets and lumbar corsets — used for patients with spinal injuries specifically relating lower back — and 50 each kidney trays and instrument trays along with one music system, 40 steel buckets and 10 plastic chairs.

When contacted by 'The News', the chief DHQ hospital Dr. Khalid Iqbal Malik said that the DHQ hospital had bought nothing but only medicines from its budget for the care of paraplegics here since the establishment of Paraplegic Centre. "We had already got everything required for the treatment of paraplegics through donations," he said.

The DHQ hospital donated further out of these donations five ripple mattresses to surgical unit one at Holy Family Hospital and 10 wheel chairs to Orthopaedic Unit at Rawalpindi General Hospital.

Donations made to the Paraplegic Center at DHQ hospital mainly by Handicap International, Khanbahadur Lalibi Welfare Trust, Mrs. Zainub Salahuddin, Dr. Shoaib Shafi and his family, Dr. Farah Qadir, Dr. Naveed Butt, Dr. Ovais Masood, Tariq Aziz and Milestones/Living Independent.

Dr. Malik said that the Chairman Board of Management RMC/Allied Hospitals Major General (r) Masood-ur-Rahman Kiani Saturday visited the centre and termed it a unique set-up. "Dr. Aurakzai from National Institute for Handicapped Dr. Maryam from World Health Organization (WHO) had visited the centre Friday late evening.