



# COVID-19

& MARKAZ-E-UMEED RESPONSE



## **MARKAZ-E-UMEED RESILIENT RESPONSE AGAINST COVID-19**

**(MARCH – SEPT 2020)**

COVID-19 outbreak was first time experienced in the Wuhan City of China at the end of December 2019. This spread rapidly worldwide in 209 countries of America, Europe, Australia and Asia including Pakistan. WHO declared the novel corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) an ‘emergency of international concern’ on 30 January 2020 and a pandemic on 11 March, which caused global shutdown and seizures of all socio-economic activities. On February 26, first case was reported in Pakistan and within few days the number of cases was increased by 50% which badly affected the lives and livelihood of Pakistani citizens.

### **MARKAZ-E-UMEED’S INTRODUCTION**

Markaz-e-Umeed is one of the prestigious organizations working for special needs children were established in 1971. Its founder, Mr. Imdad Siddiqui, initiated this noble endeavor for spreading the light of hope for many special needs children who otherwise had none. Markaz-e-Umeed has aided more than 10,000 under privileged, innocent special students get special education and training over the years. Markaz-e-Umeed has a proper class room setup along with rehabilitation center, professional staffs and accessible environment with transport facilitation. All the services provided to students are free of cost with complete support of our generous sponsors and contributors. Along with this we are actively running Evening School for Children and running Girls empowerment program. We also organize awareness-raising events and seminars on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations to boost the understanding and to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.



## **MARKAZ-E-UMEED RESPONSE TO COVID-19**


These details include condensation of the initiatives took since the COVID-19 pandemic spread out and nationwide lockdown occurred. It highlights the ongoing functioning drives at Markaz-e-Umeed reflecting major alterations for humanitarian causes were necessary to adapt and initiate to sustain a positive response as countrywide catastrophe occurred due to coronavirus outburst.

It features how COVID-19 has hurled new challenges too especially those people who are already an under-served community and without effective solutions and great support to vulnerable segments like children with special needs and people with no source of income would suffer a lot. While the countrywide COVID-19 chaos has begun, Markaz-e-Umeed stepped up with its response in an effective manner against Covid-19 by its three timely initiatives to lessen the devastating effects of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

### **RATION DRIVE**

As we all are aware, Covid-19 pandemic lockdown has given rise to the harsh consequences for the most vulnerable community without income and sustenance, The survival amid the lockdown has become tough for them as they are unable to provide meals to their family with no source of income as they often also have no savings and need the money they earn each day or each week to feed their family.

With the Support of our well-wishers, ration distribution drive was initiated to alleviate the devastating effects of lockdown for most of the families with less or lost income to corona pandemic means no food to eat and no access to healthcare. Millions of Pakistanis struggle to have meals to live on amidst COVID-19 deteriorating situation. The severely hit daily wagers, temporary and part-time workers and workers in non-essential jobs as many economic activities had to shut down under a lockdown leading them to no finances, their livelihood became more vulnerable and at-risk during this turbulent times of COVID-19.



Since March, Markaz-e-Umeed is providing rations to the families of children with special needs as well as the families of laborers and daily wagers who have been suffering immensely during the nationwide lockdown due to coronavirus. A total of ration packages were distributed to over **500 families** of the deserving community.

## **EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**

As we all know one of the challenges emerged due to the coronavirus outbreak was when the Government had to shut down the schools and a great degree of uncertainty arose in parents concerning their children.

Markaz-e-Umeed, with the aim of education should continue for students and parents, live awareness sessions focusing on psychotherapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and COVID-19 awareness started through an online platform, the live videos in teaching and learning serves to not only benefit one entity, but also the general public. Through the live education and therapies awareness sessions with experts in Psychology, Physiology, Physiotherapy and General Physicians, The awareness is being raised on physical and mental issues by Markaz-e-Umeed's avid educational online platform.

The long lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic has closed schools, colleges and other educational institutions but made us resilient and strengthen our vision to promote positivity and to take humanitarian measures in the face of current circumstances. Till yet we have engaged more than 50 experts from all around the globe and more than 50k people in our live educational sessions catering crucial issues which are Childhood trauma, Covid-19 and preventive measures, Women's health, Children's mental health importance, Family well being and Children with special needs physical and mental well being.

With PhD scholars, General Physicians, Speech and language therapists, Psychotherapists, Occupational therapists, Mental health Counselors, Special Educators and Physiotherapists the sessions serve a vast audience with everyone benefitting from them. Parents of children with special needs, parents of children without disabilities and general masses.



## MEDICAL CARE (OPD SETUP)

The COVID-19 outbreak severely affected patients with other ailments. Many hospitals have been turned into facilities for only sufferers of coronavirus. Elsewhere, other services have shut due to the lack of medical care providers or restricted patients because of the fear of coronavirus spread. The closure of OPDs in hospitals has given rise to drastic complications for the underserved community suffering from other illnesses, as they are unable to get medical care. Private clinics are way too expensive to be afforded by people belonging to the underprivileged community.

Considering this, Markaz-e-Umeed, A welfare organization in operation for the last 50 years devoted to children with special needs and other community services. A new project was initiated which is School-based OPDs to serve people. The OPDs are of General Physician, Dentist, Psychiatrist, ENT specialist and Gynecologist. The OPDs remain in function all day to be in the service of providing children, adults and old people with the best medical care they need.

## PROJECT SPREADING HOPE

**HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT:** In the times of Covid-19, the chaotic atmosphere around the covid-19 created financial instability to many households as a result of closure of businesses, downsizings, loss of work opportunities due to nationwide travel and work restrictions to control covid-19 spread.

One third of Pakistan's population live below the poverty line while 66% of the population living in poverty was the hardest hit, Hundreds of charged laborers, including women were laid off.



Particularly, labor class, daily wage earners, vendors and small shopkeepers were being hit hard by the economic shutdown.

To overcome the challenges and lessen the negative impact of covid-19, Markaz-e-Umeed comes up with the household support program that serves the most vulnerable households of our community. Financial assistance is being provided to the covid-19 circumstances struck families specially Widows, covering the utilities expenses, almost **200 families** were supported till now. This is an ongoing drive to cater the financial needs for families' struggle paying their household utility bills and other expenses as a consequence of financial crisis or emergency owing to covid-19 pandemic.

**THANK YOU!**

# RATION DISTRIBUTION



## MARKAZ-E-UMIED FOR AMAZING CHILDREN



# MEDICAL CARE

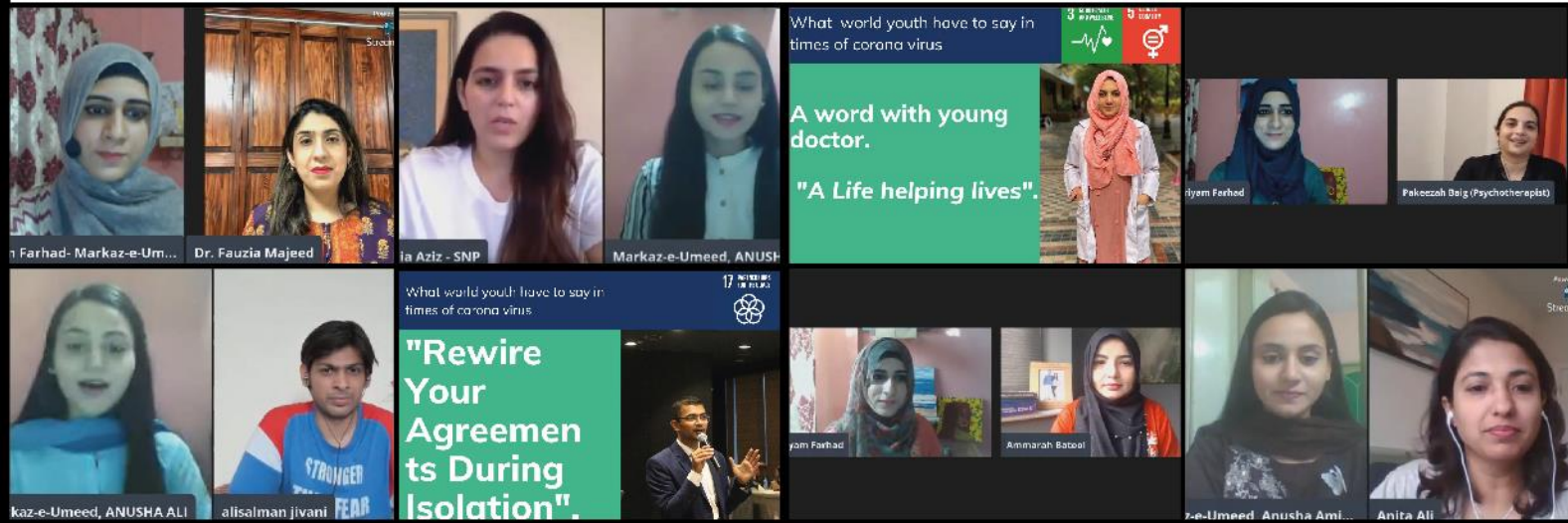


## MARKAZ-E-UMEED FOR AMAZING CHILDREN

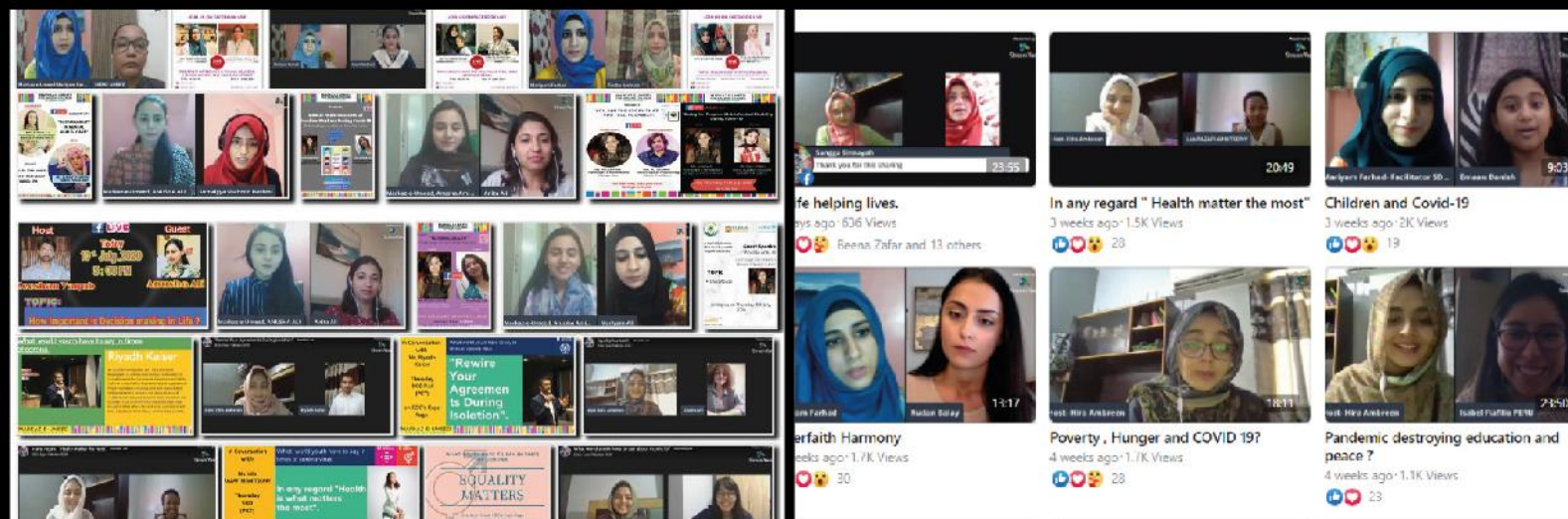




# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS



## MARKAZ-E-UMEED FOR AMAZING CHILDREN



# RAIN EMERGENCY



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# GARBAGE CLEANING



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# QUILT DISTRIBUTION



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