**DRINKING WATER FOR 40 VILLAGES OF THAR PAKISTAN**

**BY**

**CUSTOMS HEALTH CARE SOCIETY**

Customs Health Care Society (CHCS) is an NGO duly recognized and approved by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Government of Pakistan. Established by Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah in 1998 as a non – profit organization, the primary objective of the CHCS was to provide free medical facilities to indigent patients as also to create among them an awareness of preventive measures in respect of common but widespread diseases. Ever since its establishment, the CHCS has been striving hard to alleviate the sufferings of the humanity in distress at the time of natural disasters and to provide health care facilities to the poor and needy patients. The teams of CHCS has been working in drought hit area of Thar for the last two and half years and has so far been able to dig 150 wells which are providing safe drinking water to the thousands of humans as well as animals on daily basis.

It is pertinent to mention that CHCS has been working without any discrimination of race, colour, creed or religion. The Tharparkar district, spreading over 22,000 square kilometers is one of the most backward and poor area of Pakistan, with an estimated population of 1.3 million.

95% of inhabitants live in small villages which are scattered far and wide. The area is often hit by drought as there are no rains over the years and shortage of water is the main concern. The population of Thar consists of Muslims as well as Hindus. The Customs Health Care Society has dug more wells in the villages of Hindus as compared to Muslims. The 40 wells under this project will be equally distributed among the Hindus as well as Muslims. However the priority will be given to those villages where there are no wells and the women and children has to travel five to ten kilometers daily to fetch water. The estimated cost on one well is estimated to be 2000 US Dollar, the half of which will be paid to the workers involved in digging of the wells. The depth of wells ranges from 100 to 350 feet deep. The digging is done manually. It takes 2 to 3 months for completion of one well. The digging of wells can be started simultaneously subject to availability of funds.