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[HIFA2015] Innovative Telemedicine Mobile Units for Disaster Areas in Pakistan (by NDMA)

In the recent hard hit rain affected areas in Pakistan, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Technical Collaboration with Telecare (pvt) Ltd has been instrumental in seeking new ways for providing healthcare services through innovative technologies, therefore for the first time in Pakistan, NDMA has used Mobile Health and Telecare platforms to provide timely and proper medical care in all areas, especially at the remotest hard hit areas.

Considering these problems Chairman, NDMA, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, in collaboration with the team from NDMA Technology innovation division have successfully established the **first telecare facility at Badin** last month, which was inaugurated by Dr Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan.

The project is being established by a local company Telecare (pvt) Ltd, which is a pioneered eHealth focused company in Pakistan. The Telecare project of NDMA is linked with specialist facility at Dow University of Health Sciences, and is being operated through a NGO, Initiative for Social Action (INSAN), Dr. Masood Hameed , the Vice Chancellor of Dow University has collaborated in providing physical resources, and the expertise of different faculties of medicine, as gesture of participation in the relief work.

Abdullah Butt Advisor of NDMA on Technology Innovation said that another milestone in Telehealth is the launch of Pakistan's **first Telemedicine Mobile Unit (TMU)**, these mobile units are sponsored by AMAN Foundation, which are fully equipped vehicles along with state of the art biometric devices, and data from these devices will be transferred from affected locations through wireless broadband or EDGE based mobile internet to the specialist facility. Those TMUs will be transmitting live video /Audio of patient through broadband link to the specialist in Karachi, who will be looking at patients Eyes, Ears, Nose and throat through high definition magnified live video as well as the vital data will also be available for them to aid in the diagnose of the diseases.

The technology is being used for the first time in the country. The effectiveness of the first Telecare initiative of NDMA in Badin, led Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Yousuf Raza Gillani to direct NDMA to establish such facilities in all provinces that are affected by any calamity in Pakistan.

At present, these two mobile telemedicine units will be based at Hyderabad and Thatta locations, and the specialists from more than 12 faculties from Dow University of Health Sciences, will be looking at those patients through video and data linkage.

HIFA2015 profile: Abdullah Butt is the Chief Executive of Phonecast (pvt) Ltd, an e-health service provider company and Founder Executive director of Telecare (pvt) Ltd, With a brand called CALLDOC. This e health service is based in Karachi, Pakistan. Abdullah Butt has recently been taken the assignment as Advisor Technology Innovation at National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at Prime Minister Secretariat- Pakistan, with objective to bring in innovative tools and application to fight the after effects of Disasters like Rain, flood, Earth quakes and terrorism. From the platform of NDMA Abdullah Butt has a setup Remote mobile camp where victims are treated using wireless bio medical sensors and live video connectivity back to specialists sitting a city's man hospitals. Abdullah Butt is a leading e-health technology integrator and consultant who uses state of the art call center technology and works with leading European medical sensor companies, Phonecast e-health service CALLDOC is currently using CTI enabled platform to save Maternal and Child mortality. While Telecare is working with Pakistan's leading Medical University, Dow University of Health Sciences in Pakistan and **AMAN Foundation, Pakistan's leading NGO working n primary healthcare.** Whereas Phonecast has designed and implemented state of the art technologies for Hybrid e-learning technology for delivery of live and recorded educational and training content to a large online audiences through IP publishing technology developed by PBX Telecom of Romania. abutt AT phonecast.tv, as well as advisorit AT ndma.gov.pk