



# News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

## U.S. Funds Renovation of Family Health Clinic for Afghan Refugees, Local Population

*Haripur, April 6, 2007* -- The renovated Meelam Family Health Clinic was inaugurated here Friday to serve Afghan refugees as well as Pakistani host community members. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) funded the renovation which was carried out by the NGO Save the Children.

Located between the city of Haripur and the nearby Panian and Padhana refugee camps, the previously abandoned government health unit building was donated by the District Nazim of Haripur, Yousaf Ayub Khan.

"The United States commends the co-existence and cooperation between refugee villages and the local host community," U.S. Embassy's Refugee Coordinator Linda R. Hoover said in her remarks on the occasion. "We recognize the needs of refugees, but we also recognize the burden borne by the host communities where refugees are located, and we seek to assist both populations wherever possible."

Save the Children, with U.S. Government funds, has been providing round-the-clock emergency obstetric services in the nearby camps for the past four years. In order to reach out to the local host community and help even more clients, they relocated the family health clinic to Meelam with the assistance of the local government.

"The State Department has worked with and funded Save the Children's projects for many years and we are very proud to partner with them," Linda Hoover said. She also thanked the district Nazim Yousaf Ayub Khan, Executive District Health Officer Dr. Muhammad Qasim Khan, and the district of Haripur "for their generosity and cooperation that made this clinic possible."

U.S. diplomat Hoover said: "Projects like this one are those that build stronger relationships between our countries and our people."

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