



SDC provides access to water for drinking and irrigation ©SDC

Promoting Optimal Use of Water

Pakistan has traditionally suffered from water crisis going in both directions, the country either suffers from too much or too little water. Disasters like the 2010 floods destroyed millions of livelihoods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which the affected population still struggles to rebuild. As water and energy crises have adversely impacted food production and employment, the SDC launched 'Water for Livelihoods' project to promote the optimal use of water in KP and FATA, in collaboration with Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HSI).

More than 10,000 households in 47 villages have gained access to irrigation water by reconstructing new irrigation schemes and rehabilitating traditional spate irrigation water conveyance systems. Farmers in villages, where surface water irrigation schemes have been newly built, are now able to diversify their crops by growing vegetables, which they either consume themselves or sell on the market.

With the establishment of Drinking Water Supply Schemes (DWSS) in 37 villages of the project areas (D.I. Khan, Tank, Karak and Chitral), almost 8,000 households have now gained access to drinking water. These schemes have reduced water related conflicts, discouraged seasonal migration and cut the workload of women and children, giving them more time to engage in other productive activities.

An additional 4,300 households have benefitted from the project's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) element in the first phase. They are now more resistant to floods through the construction of DRR structures, such as earthen village protection walls, gabion spurs and spill ways.

The Objective

This project aims at achieving institutional and legal reforms to eliminate constraints of inefficient water management and introduce better protection of regional water resources, mainly for agriculture and human consumption.

The main focus of the project was the development of a tool called "Water User Management Plan" (WUMP), which promotes dialogue among



Water management yields better crop production ©SDC



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stakeholders at valley/tehsil, union or village levels. It was ensured that all segments of the communities participate in the preparation phase of WUMP.

The WUMP aims to achieve an effective, equitable and efficient use of water resources on the local level, based on the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach. Furthermore, it seeks to restore and upgrade the traditional spate irrigation systems and establish more self-governed maintenance systems. For this purpose, 16 Water User Associations (WUAs) representing 798 water user groups (356 female and 399 male groups) with 3,530 members (1,550 women and 1,980 men) have been established in catchment areas around water sources in D.I. Khan, Tank, Karak and Chitral. These associations and groups are working more closely with the district authorities and governments to efficiently manage the water resources in the target areas.

Partner

- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HSI)

The Way Forward

The geographic focus of the project will continue to be on KP, where water issues are more critical. Instead of implementing activities, the project support actors to do so and will keep on building the capacities of local authorities, Water User Associations and technical departments through trainings.

The trainings focus more on organisation management and resolving local water disputes through dialogue. The trainees are taught to advocate for and acquire their rights in order to get them recognised by the district authorities and governments. It will further strive to contribute to the agricultural development and enhance rural economies in ecologically fragile, semi-arid and poor districts of KP through equitable access to water.

The Water for Livelihoods Project builds on the previous experiences of SDC in water with a particular emphasis on community-based DRR. The project fosters the strengthening of local rural economies in KP. In doing so, it contributes to the development of integrated WUMP that caters to community needs and engages government entities to lead the implementation of these plans. The initiative is fully coherent with the KP government's approved Integrated Development Strategy.

WUMP provides a roadmap for different government departments to mainstream IWRM practices. The intended policy impact of this

intervention is institutionalisation of WUMP at the district and provincial levels, resulting in the transformation of a prevalent top-down decision making process to a more community based participatory planning of water resources to ensure sustainability.



Flood water management for irrigation ©SDC

Time Frame:	August 2011 to December 2017
Total SDC Budget:	CHF 10.47 million
Geographic Focus:	Karak, D.I. Khan, Chitral, Tank, Lower Dir in KP; FR D.I.Khan in the FATA

Further information

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