

Water for Livelihoods (W4L)

March 2016



SDC provides access to water for drinking and irrigation ©SDC

Promoting Optimal Use of Water

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

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.

Almost 8,000 households in 37 villages in the project areas (D.I. Khan, Tank, Karak and Chitral) have gained access to drinking water by establishing Drinking Water Supply Schemes (DWSS) in the villages. 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 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) structures, such as earthen village protection walls, gabion spurs and spill ware.

Aim of the Project

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 is the development of a tool called "Water Use Management Plan" (WUMP), which promotes dialogues among stakeholders at valley/tehsil, union or village levels. An important factor during the preparation phase of the WUMP was that all segments of the communities were part of the process.



Water management yields better crop production © SDC

The WUMP aims to achieve an effective, equitable and efficient use of water resources on a 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 the governments to efficiently manage the water resources in the target areas.

Plans for the Future

This SDC project will continue to focus on KP, where water issues are most critical and allow an optimum use of resources. It does not aim to implement activities, but support actors to do so and keep on building capacities of local authorities, water users' associations and technical departments.



Flood water management for irrigation© SDC



Structures to store water from flash floods for better use and to protect crops© SDC

The training focuses on organisation management and resolving local water disputes through dialogue. The trainees are also taught to advocate and acquire their rights in order to get them recognised by the district authorities and the 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.

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

Achievements:

- 10,233 households in 47 villages provided with irrigation water
- 7,951 households in 37 village's villages gained access to drinking water
- 4,300 households in 37 villages protected against floods
- 73,681 acres of land irrigated
- 37 new water schemes established
- 16 Water Users' Associations formed representing 798 WUGs
- 7 Water Use Management Plans prepared and implemented in the field by multiple actors

Partner

- Intercooperation (IC)

Further information

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