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New World: Inclusive Sustainable Human Development Initiatives (3rd Generation)

Community Stewardship and Water Replenishment for Drinking and Hygiene

Water is a diminishing resource in Pakistan. Climate change is changing hydrological flow patterns affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions. Water needs of rural communities remain un-served and underserved contributing to poor health and low productivity. Nearly 44% of the population suffers from nutritional stunting and 48% live below poverty line. A burgeoning population and shrinking resource base is creating an imbalance between water supply and demand.

Globally the role of women is recognized in poverty reduction but has not found traction in Pakistan due to

QUICK FACTS

Duration: 2017-2019

Implementing partners: UNDP, Mountains and Glaciers Protection Organization (MGPO)

Funding partner: Coca-cola and Global Water Challenge

Location: Village GoleTassu, U.C Gole Sermik District Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan

Total budget: USD 95,000

Contact: Usman Manzoor, Programme Officer, Environment and Climate Change Unit, UNDP
usman.manzoor@undp.org



cultural barriers that prevent women from being part of decision making. The youth lack awareness about the importance of natural resources and its connection with life supporting services.

Mobilizing communities and building capacities of women/youth to work together will open opportunities to maximize output and ensure sustainability.

The project will, hence, use social, economic and advocacy tools to disseminate awareness, build capacity and provide an institutional mechanism for access to water to promote wellbeing of all and strengthen adaptive capacity, following a gender responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, with a view to contributing to SDG's.

Community water stewardship aims to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, adaptation to climate change, and improved water resources management through inclusive and practical community based approaches.

Objectives

- Community stewardship of water resources to enhance socio economic and environmental well-being through replenishment benefits.
- To align replenishment benefits with SDG's ensuring role of Women & Youth
- To build community capacity for sustainable management of natural resources with active role of women in decision making.
- Develop synergistic linkages between local authorities and local communities for climate compatible development.

Activities

- To build consensus with all stake holders on project objectives, methodology and sustainability
- Formation of community organization through a broad based, representative, transparent, and a socially inclusive process that ensures 50% inclusion of women in decision making.
- Build capacity of community to plan, implement, monitor and manage project activities from inception to completion and post completion.
- Develop technical feasibility and environmental mitigation measures to ensure socio, economic and environmental integrity of project deliverables.
- Develop technical design for construction of water hygiene services.
- Disseminate information on effective management of water resources and raise awareness on the role of

women & youth in water stewardship, management of natural resources, health, hygiene and gender empowerment

- Organize coordination meetings between local authorities and local communities to develop synergistic linkages for climate compatible development.

Key Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are the local communities, District Government and its related departments. These include Planning, Finance, Social Welfare, Health, Forest and Wildlife, Population and Environmental Protection Agency & Civil Society Organizations. After the 18th Constitutional Amendment water has become a provincial subject and therefore its availability, quality and distribution falls in the mandate of sub-national governance. NGO's and donor organizations also play a critical role as stakeholders in integrating adaptation into relevant socio-economic and environmental policies and actions where appropriate.

Expected results

The project will have far reaching effects on the social and economic wellbeing of the target community.

Some of the benefits include:

- *Reduced waterborne diseases*
- *Improved health and productivity*
- *Reduced workload on women*
- *Improved physical and emotional wellbeing of women*
- *Decreased spending on health and increased savings*
- *Improved attendance rate of girl child in school*
- *Opportunity for improving income generation*

The project will build capacity for skill development & opportunity for socio economic advancement (especially women). Short term impact will include income support (wages for labor) and long-term impact will open windows of opportunity to enhance livelihood support base (Kitchen gardening, livestock & other entrepreneurial initiatives). The hygiene best practices will contribute to good health & productivity. The wider objective of maintaining balance between human activity & nature will also be served through the project by promoting sustainable consumption patterns.

Main achievements

Hitherto, the project has been successful in

- Integrated water resource management for food security, safe drinking water and sanitation services in

Village Gole Tassu, UC Gole Sermik, District Skardu,
Gilgit Baltistan

What's next?

In 2019, the following outcomes are expected which include;

- 2880 people, male (1296) - Female (1584) will benefit from Sustainable access to Water for Domestic Consumption, Productive use & Hygiene best practices
- Quantity of water is increase up to 39.7 Million liters per annum at the discharge rate of 2.5 cusecs to be replenished to communities
- 800 women & 400 Youth are expected to be empowered to improve education & receive jobs opportunities through project interventions