



Sokar Village Sanitation Project

Report B
Project Closing Report
June 2011

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1. Project Summary

1.1 Background

The village of Sokar located in the Kashmir Region of North West Pakistan has received assistance from HEED Association to make improvements to the basic amenities of water and sanitation. As part of this improvement initiative HEED Association has recently completed the installation of family latrines in order to facilitate sustainable access to sanitation.

Sokar Village is located in Jhelum Valley, 35km from Muzaffarabad. The scheme comprised construction of 60 family latrines as well as latrines for the local primary school. The new latrines provide access to basic sanitation for more than 350 people.

Sokar Village was selected for the initiative because the village is severely deprived of all basic amenities. Also, the community has shown enthusiasm and support for the sanitation project.

The Association for Development of Pakistan (ADP) was the funding agency for this important project in Sokar Village.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to report on:

- Total number of latrines constructed
- Total number of latrines in working condition
- Usage of latrines

This document also presents a brief strategy for improving the outcome of the Sokar Village Sanitation Project.

2. Post Project Survey

2.1 Post Project Survey

Three months after completion of construction of the family latrines and inauguration of the scheme, a brief post-project survey was conducted. Two teams, comprising HEED staff, hygiene promoters and members of the village WASH Committee, visited each of the families involved with the project. A brief survey focusing on usage and condition of latrines was conducted and the majority of latrines were photographed.

The completed survey forms can be provided on ADP's on request.

2.2 Outcome

The results from the Post Project Survey are shown below.

- Total Number of Latrines Constructed: 60
- Number of Latrines in Good Working Condition: 40 (67%)

Table 1: Latrine Usage by Family

Usage	100%	75%	50%	<20%
Number of Families	33	2	7	18
Percentage of Families (/60)	55%	3%	12%	30%

Source: HEED Association. NOTE: These figures include Tahira Primary School.

Table 2: Latrine Usage by Number of People

Usage	100%	75%	50%	<20%
Number of People	130	17	52	99
Percentage of Village Population (/298)	44%	6%	17%	33%

Source: HEED Association. NOTE: These figures do not include number of children attending Tahira Primary School.

Table 3: Latrine Usage by Men / Women / Children

Usage	100%	75%	50%	<20%
Number of Men	40	5	11	22
Number of Women	43	3	14	25
Number of Children	47	7	27	52

Source: HEED Association. NOTE: These figures do not include number of children attending Tahira Primary School.

An extensive spreadsheet has been formulated recording each and every latrine for a close review, analysis and later monitoring.

3. Concerns

3.1 Overview

HEED Association did not anticipate the level of non-usage of latrines that the post project survey revealed. However behind every occasion of non-use or low use, there is a valid reason.

Reasons given by family members for non-use and low-use of the latrines are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Reasons for Non-Usage or Low Usage of Latrines

Reasons Given For Non-Usage or Low Usage of Latrine	Number of Families
Water shortage / no water available	10
Latrine incomplete (Pit not connected to latrine -)	1
Latrine incomplete (door missing not completed and installed)	7
No reason provided	3
Latrine not clean / lack of hygiene awareness	2
House permanently abandoned	1

Source: HEED Association

3.2 Water Shortage

Water supply to all the constructed latrines was ensured by HEED prior to the completion of sanitation project i.e. to be available within a close proximity for an easy access. To achieve this, HEED undertook Sokar Village Water Supply Phase II specifically to support the sanitation project.

However, the feedback from some of the latrine owners on water shortage is based on a recent conflict in the Sokar Village. This social issue amongst two different groups in the village has resulted in one group removing the water pipes crossing their territory i.e. not allowing the pipe to cross their field.

This, therefore, is posing challenges in accessing to enough water for the use of latrines.

3.3 Latrine Incomplete

During the survey, a group of last few latrines were found with missing doors. The approach on this project required communities to procure / arrange timber for the construction of the doors and majority of the

latrines are already with doors. However, clearly these latrine owners have not actioned this yet – some hang curtains outside.

There was one case where the final latrine sewer connection was not connected to the septic pit.

HEED review of the above situation reveals that all these latrines are located at the very top (uphill) part of the village and were the last ones to be completed in terms of construction. This suggests a possibility of missing out the final check of these latrines as the final verification / checks are done taking random samples.

Another possibility could be that due to the remoteness of these latrines within the village, our monitoring team and the village WASH Committee members might have not been visiting very frequently.

3.4 Lack of Hygiene Awareness

Achieving behavioural change is a huge challenge. People in this community have followed the practice of open defecation for generations and to change this practice is not an easy task.

Despite a strong and regular Hygiene Promotion programme pre and post project, it is believed that there are gaps and need of further raising the awareness considering the evidence of unhygienic practices in a couple of cases.

One of the factors that were also raised by HEED team members that majority of the hygiene sessions were held around the school area which might have discouraged a very healthy presence of the women from the upper reaches of the village.

3.5 Completely Abandoned Latrine

The only one case where the latrine has been reported to be in an abandoned state is associated with an inhabitant who is a mentally retarded person.

4. Rectification Measures

4.1 Overview

The local HEED team has held meetings to discuss the issues faced and to develop rectification measures to address the issues and the resources required to do this. HEED is committed to improving the usage of latrines in Sokar Village and believes that achieving the initial target of 100% usage is still achievable.

Rectification measures are divided into two areas: technical/practical and behavioural.

4.2 Technical / Practical Measures

4.2.1 Water Shortage

As explained in the earlier chapter, the water shortage has resulted due to a recent conflict where the water supply and an easy access to water is no more available.

As a mitigation measure, HEED team has already been mobilised to engage the village WASH committee to address the issue and re-install the ripped up pipe and to ensure that this is undertaken with a assurance that it won't re-occur.

4.2.1.1 Action On and Deadline

The action is on HEED's Abdul Waheed, the community Leader Mr. Abdul Lateef, the WASH committee members and HEED's Field Team members.

The action is aimed to be addressed by the end of July 2011.

4.2.2 Completion of Latrine Construction

Eight of the sixty latrines constructed are incomplete. HEED intends to send a small construction team for a period of 1 week to assist the community members to undertake the construction required so that all latrines are complete.

The construction required is minor (varying from installing the connection pipe between the latrine and the septic pit, to installing the door).

Although it is the responsibility of the community to erect the doors of toilets yet HEED will spare some funds to provide assistance, if

absolutely necessary, in procuring materials to complete the construction of doors.

4.2.2.1 Action On and Deadline

The action is on HEED's Senior Technician Jaafar Ali, the community Leader Mr. Abdul Lateef, the WASH committee members and HEED's other Field Team members.

The action is aimed to be addressed by the end of July 2011.

4.3 Behavioural Measures

HEED will run a hygiene awareness session once a fortnight for the following three months (may have a break during Ramadan). These sessions will be held at a venue in the upper reaches of the village to ensure a mandatory representation of those households with most of the issues. However, all community members will be encouraged to attend.

HEED will also engage hygiene promoters to visit some of the families who have indicated low latrine use, to provide one-on-one encouragement.

HEED will ensure to take on board the locally trained four (4) Hygiene Promoters and involve them in the process to promote sustainable mechanism of organising hygiene sessions.

4.3.1.1 Action On and Deadline

The action is on HEED's Hygiene Promotor Miss Shabnam, the community based local Hygiene Promotor Miss Sumaira, the WASH committee members and HEED's other Field Team members to assist.

The action is aimed to be addressed by the end of September 2011. By setting a deadline, it is an ongoing effort and therefore, HEED will try to set a community led hygiene promotion sessions every now and then.

4.4 Monitoring

In three months time (approximately mid to late September) a second post-project survey will be conducted. This will enable HEED to monitor what improvement in latrine usage has taken place.

4.4.1.1 Action On and Deadline

The action is on HEED's Senior Technician Jaafar Ali, HEED's Hygiene Promotor Miss Shabnam, the community Leader Mr. Abdul Lateef, the community based local Hygiene Promotor Miss Sumaira, the WASH committee members and HEED's other Field Team members for assistance.

The action is aimed to be addressed by the end of September 2011.

4.5 Announcing an Incentive & Reward (Prize)

Incentives play an important part in spelling additional energy into the community to work even harder to achieve the set goals. HEED is considering along this line where around three (3) prizes as a reward specific to women will be announced and be distributed at the end of the post project survey (phase II) based on the evaluation carried out. The most hygienic and well constructed and maintained latrine owners will be awarded with these three prizes.

Further details still need to be developed but this can be introduced as an experiment.

4.5.1.1 Action On ad Deadline

The action is on HEED's Senior Technician Jaafar Ali, HEED's Hygiene Promotor Miss Shabnam, the community Leader Mr. Abdul Lateef, the community based local Hygiene Promotor Miss Sumaira, the WASH committee members and HEED's other Field Team members for assistance.

The action is aimed to be addressed by the end of September 2011.

5. Conclusion

A post project survey completed 3 months after the inauguration of the Sokar Village Sanitation Project revealed that 67% of the 60 latrines are in good working condition. Approximately half the community uses the latrines greater than 75% of the time.

HEED Association has developed rectification measures to improve usage of the latrines and will undertake a second survey in September to measure progress.

However, despite the challenges, HEED is satisfied with the initial outcome of the survey as universally, 70% success rate on a sanitation project is classed as good. Also, the feedback from the community members from the households who are not using their latrine due to being incomplete, are actually using the newly constructed latrines in their neighbourhood. This suggests even higher usage rate of latrines which has not been recorded during the survey.

This takes us to a question to ask:

What is the objective of our project?

- a. To provide one latrine to each household

OR

- b. to ensure behavioural change and reduce open defecation practices

We believe that the objective is item b and therefore, major focus is to meet item b, however, as we have attempted to achieve item a as well, HEED is committed to rectify and improve the situation by the shared deadlines.

Lessons learnt from village Sokar sanitation project will be applied on village Mishtimba Sanitation project (under review with ADP) i.e. address the demand and supply of latrines efficiently and provide what is critically needed. A broad unified approach as adapted in case of Sokar has pros on one hand but offers constraints too as some shared in the earlier chapters of this report.

HEED once again assures ADP of our commitment to the project and the aim to make it a complete success to help proceed with other similar projects.