

Sukaar Foundation

**Ensuring accessibility of safe drinking water
coupled with improved sanitation and hygiene
for deprived communities of Thar Desert Sindh.**

**Monthly Progress Report
January, 2015**

Project summary

District Tharparkar- in Sindh province of Pakistan, is mostly comprised on desert, with some of the extended parts to agricultural planes and some to hilly areas. The district has around 1.3 million human population having livelihood dependence on rain-dependent agro-pastoral economy. The poverty rate is near 70% double than other districts of the country. A WFP survey conducted in early 2000 indicates that district is the most food insecure district of the country. The limited ground water is ultimate source of water for people in Tharparkar. The quality of ground water is saline to brackish with high concentration of various salts and minerals, which are dangerous for human as well as livestock health. Hence, it could be said that water is one of the massive issues of the area

Attempting to solve the water problem in Tharparkar the people have been striving on their own with different manners. Conventionally, the dug-well is believed- and so far practically it is- only sustainable source of groundwater. Although the tube-wells, hand pumps and wind mills also introduced in Tharparkar by different agencies but such schemes are not yet proved fully successful and most of these schemes are not functional due to various reasons. In a normal day, villagers averagely spend around 3-4 hours to fetch water from water supply pipe line on distance of four KMs away from the village. However the social life of villagers is also restricted due to lack of adequate water. This specially affects the women much, who are responsible for carrying water. Women could not leave their households even for social functions due to pre occupation in fetching water. They remain unable to entertain friends and relations due to water insecurity. At times, both the young boys and girls had to postpone their carrier development activities due to the responsibility of fetching water. Whenever they go out of the village, they had to fetch water to compensate for their time of absence. Besides being a pre occupation for women, fetching water effects children's education too during dry seasons. Often children also remain necessary part of the water collection, sometimes stretching into the night hours too due to the water supply timing. In such event children have to sacrifice daily studies, for which they were reprimanded by their teachers. On other hand if it is looked into environmental context it finds that the ground water table in Tharparkar is depleting gradually which results in reduction of soil moistures that contributes to vanishing of desert vegetation leading to deforestation.

Working in water sector NGO Sukaar Foundation Tharparkar it has been explored that rainwater harvesting has a greater potential to cope with the water problem of Tharparkar. In this connection, SF has approached Association for the Development of Pakistan- ADP to address the water related issues of the area to select different localities of Tharparkar in order to introduce viable rainwater harvesting methods and practices to address the water issues further to influence the policies and practices to scale up the good practices within and beyond the targeted population.

Association for the Development of Pakistan (ADP) financed Rain Water Harvesting project, which was implemented by Sukaar Foundation in village Phul Ji Wandh, district Tharparkar. The implemented structures are considered as one of the most effective, indigenous and demand-driven in context of Thar Desert. The project includes construction of 126 household level ponds. The household-level pond has a storage capacity of 8,000 liters. The purpose of this project was to provide a clean and nearby source of drinking water for the villagers and the construction of ponds will commence right away so that villagers can start using them during the 2015 summer monsoon season. Sukaar Foundation and Association for the Development of Pakistan- ADP have initiated a project on rainwater harvesting initiatives in order to support people of Tharparkar to have them access to drinking water. In this project SF and ADP have planned to introduce rainwater harvesting models using both indigenous and innovative technologies

Area Selection

Before initiating project Association for the Development of Pakistan- ADP team had detailed survey of the area, where several meetings and consultative dialogues were conducted with communities and village Phul Ji Wandh selected for the intervention of Rainwater harvesting and finalized for the financing on the basis of need. In this village Focus Group discussions were hold keeping in view the need analysis and appropriate solutions regarding the access to safe water.

VDO formation

VDOs established on standard criteria (E&I, representation of maximum HHs of the village and strengthened and maintaining the rainwater harvesting systems through acquiring technical & community management skills. SF teams oriented them on the roles and responsibilities through Social Mobilization process

MoU signed with community:

Before initiating construction memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with community and terms and conditions were finalized. In this MoU community is responsible for arranging water, plot for the construction, fold fencing and bushes surrounded by the household water tank and one unskilled labor. On the account of village reformation and WASH practices WASH groups for ensuring water and sanitation implementation as designed, cooperation, monitoring committees formed for proper check and balance as well as hold meeting with communities of the village to orient them regarding water and sanitation initiatives. SF Project team conducts formal meeting with the members of WASH committees, monitoring committees on regular basis, In these follow-up meetings

members are further sensitized on WASH issues and record keeping of VDO. In these follow-up meetings WASH committee members are much sensitized to promote hygienic practices and further to disseminate the messages to rest of villagers as well as discussed on rain as they received showers in their respective village. SF team mobilized the community members to use filtered water of rain as they can get rid of water born disease. Mobilization team mobilized communities for proper saving for operation and maintenance and roles and responsibilities. In this village WASH committees performs and capacity building is ongoing process of the project.

Hygiene awareness sessions in community.

SF has learnt that vast majority of people are not aware of health/hygiene education/practices in its program area which invites various preventable diseases. In this regard Hygiene sessions were organized in village for raising awareness on best WASH practices at local level considering the convenience of the community. In these hygiene promotions session's male and female participated.



These hygiene sessions were focused on key hygiene practices especially hand washing practice after defecation and before eating. Similarly, the women, being the care takers of the children, sensitized about the hygiene/ sanitation of cooking place/ kitchen and toilet. In these sessions social mobilization team also focusing on the use of safe and uncontaminated water. Communities also learnt the local water treatment methods further to avoid the drinking unclean water. Project social organizers will continue to conduct the hygiene promotion sessions in villages till next of month.

Construction of Household level Nadi Pond and Nadi Filter.



During reporting period construction of village level structure, small household level Nadi pond cisterns (underground tanks) are also part of village level rainwater harvesting system. The internal shape of the Nadi pond allows it to be constructed using a very thin lining of cement and sand mortar. These Nadi ponds catch the monsoon rains via a small saucer shaped

concrete catchment around the cistern and provide enough drinking water for families in the dry season.

During reporting period of January, 80 household level Nadi pond and Nadi Filter have been initiated so far. These household level Nadi ponds will be benefitting the village Phul Ji Wandh.

Construction of Demo Latrines.

On the account of Demo latrines constructed in village Phul Ji Wandh. In these sanitation activities communities benefited and SF team oriented the communities to use demo latrines on regular basis. Keeping in view poor hygiene situation, Wash Committees formed which actively perform in village and WASH committee members promotes WASH practices in village through meetings and sensitization. In this regard continuous awareness sessions and the process of sensitization hold in schools with children, SMC members, teachers, and community members on regular basis.

During the period of January 32 latrine has been constructed.



Training for Village Development Organization-VDO

Followed by the infrastructural development in the villages, the project focus on capacity building in order for improve rainwater harvesting, its utilization, management and further cover the way for long term promotion and sustainability of the project. The Village Development Organization (VDO) is the major forum of the village that will regularly meet on the every month and will take over all the operational and maintenance activities. Project team trained the VDOs and made them responsible for the operation and maintenance of water resources. SF organized training of VDO in the reporting month to build up their capacity on operation and maintenance as well as their water distribution mechanism. It was a participatory training and all the participants actively participated.



Community level theater on WASH awareness

Sukaar Foundation organized Theater on WASH initiative in the village and objective of this program empowering the community and students to enable them endeavoring to bring the desired changes in their lives. Communities delivered speeches on the WASH related topics. Drama was performed by theater team on unhygienic environment and due to this health problems



raised and children shared the reasons of sickness and parents worried for their treatment. In this drama socio economic conditions of the Thar also highlighted that people of Thar passing miserable life in this current era where there is no subsidy except inflation and the different diseases opened their mouths due to carelessness. After the drama participants expressed their views that such event play a vital role in the society for promoting hygiene education and we are very much pleased. SF and ADP is playing an important role in promoting hygiene education in the communities to augment the abilities of the male, female and children to endorse health/hygiene education in communities to bring changes in their lives to reduce/mitigate the poverty cycle. They admired SF cooperation and support in arranging such program initiated.

Key activities planned for the next period

Following activities are planned for the next month

- a) Construction of Households level Nadi pond
- b) Low cost demo latrines
- c) Training of Village Development Organization- VDOs
- d) Hygiene session in communities
- e) Video Theatre Show
- f) Water quality testing
- g) Community Training on RWH