PRE-INTERVENTION CONTEXT

Shamshad is a resident of village Shair Khan Lund, Union council Behlani, Taluka Mahrabpur. Women of village Shair Khan Lund and other villages of Taluka Mahrabpur are often perceived to be dependent on men, because they do not contribute monetarily in their households hence they are not being obliged in major decisions related to their life standards. Shamshad and her daughter remain ill due to improper WASH- Water and sanitation Hygiene-facilities in village that resulted in heavy medical expenses which contributes in their poverty.

Since most of the women do not achieve basic education, they were also lacked understanding of water and sanitation hygiene and its impact on household health. Most of the household of the village Shair Khan Lund suffered from illness and medical expenses. Thus, there was an urgent need to not only aware women about WASH but also empower them to have access to those facilities.

WASH INTERVENTIONS

To respond to these challenges, SAFWCO, introduced scheme of improved water and sanitation hygiene facilities through its mobilization- a core component of SAFWCO. To ensure sustainability, community ownership remain the focus of organizations to intervene in targeted area. Believing in participatory approach SAFWCO’s mobilization team started its core approach participator rural appraisal to identify the problems of the villages and develop action plan against identified
problems. Village based organization formed VWC – village wash committee – that own the problem of practicing open defecation in the village and became responsible of immediate actions against it. SWAFCO undertook trainings on WASH that added value in the life of beneficiaries.

Keeping eye on poverty, SAFWCO introduced low cost pit latrine and pour flash. Community was made aware of hygiene conditions of their village and they started construction of pit latrine and pour flashed in village Shair Khan Lund. Through community led total sanitation, by provide technical assistance to poor, it was ensured to install hand pumps 50 meters away from pit latrine to achieve safe drinking water supply to community. To ensure that the impacts of WASH interventions added long term sustainable values in the lives of its beneficiaries, SAFWCO in collaboration with UNICEF, worked on a robust participatory approach. SAFWCO technicians – with support of VWC – encouraged the beneficiaries to participate in the project implementation so that they feel sense of ownership towards pit latrine and pour flashes in their village. The beneficiaries were also made aware of their responsibility to upkeep the maintenance of the WASH interventions on a regular basis that enabled open defecation free environment.

**IMMEDIATE OUTPUT**

After the WASH interventions, Shamshad is currently having access to improved WASH facilities along with her family and neighbors. Enabling open defecation free environment in village, Shamshad and her family is living healthy lives and their medical expenses has dramatically decreased.

“Before WASH interventions in our village, it was more than a taboo to defecate in open fields. There were cultural barriers, health risks and life threatening animals in the field. But SAFWCO team has broken the silence and aware us to improve WASH facilities in our village. Now my family is living healthy life”.

*(SHAMSHAD)*
IMPACT OF INTERVENTIONS.

The WASH interventions created multi-dimensional impacts in improving the life of Shamshad and her family.

The hand washing skills led them to better health and hygiene conditions. Set of skills will sustain them from diseases and other diseases transmitted through oral contact.

Contrary to her previous health condition of Shamshad and her family they spent more on medical and less on their nutrition and education. Now they are saving money and spending on other needs. They have increased ability to handle shocks.

Association with SAFWCO & VWC has increased Shamshad’s social capital because she interacts with people from diverse backgrounds and learns from their experiences.

Due to the improved WASH facilities, she is able to ensure a better standard of living for his family by providing them healthy food and prevent them from diseases.