Integrated WASH Response for Building Resilience in Drought-Affected Desert Areas of District Umerkot, Sindh

REPORT ON

REPAIR HAND PUMPS

Introduction of SAFWCO: Sindh Agricultural and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization—SAFWCO is a non-government, not-for-profit, right-based organization working in Pakistan since 1986. SAFWCO initiated a process of social mobilization in District Sanghar, registered under Society Act 1860 in 1992 now its journey extended over all Sindh by mainstreaming rural population. SAFWCO has worked under thematic lines of Agriculture, Health and Education, WASH (Water sanitation and hygiene), livelihood, advocacy, governance and gender.

Summary of the Project: The humanitarian crisis in Taluka Umerkot has been deteriorating as a consequence of the recurrent drought which is in continuation since 2014. Umerkot district has two distinct geographical portions: i.e. the irrigated area in the north and west and the desert in the south and east. 25 sub units of union councils (Dehs) are officially declared as Drought affected area in district of Umerkot. Access to portable water remains of high concern and is intensified by the needs of livestock animals. Moreover, recurring dry spells have forced communities to travel long distances to access water for drinking. Continuous lowering of water table, non-functionality of dug wells and hand pumps, people’s limited capacity of repairing them and absence of any water schemes from Government in these remote and desert areas of Umerkot has aggregated humanitarian crisis. According to the National Disaster Consortium (NDC) assessment 2019, around 3 to 4 million people are affected in Sindh which forms almost 40% of the population in the affected districts. The Humanitarian Country Team through allocated Pakistan Humanitarian Pooled Fund (PHPF) has announced to provide urgent humanitarian assistance for drought affected communities in district of Umerkot and Tharparker in sectors of WASH, Nutrition, Health and Food Security. The proposed project aims to contribute and concentrate on increased access to portable drinking water through installation, rehabilitation and restoration of damaged water sources. The project will increase existing water discharge capacity of the communal dug wells through upgrading them with submersible pumps powered by renewable energy. Communal Shallow dysfunctional hand pumps will be rehabilitated with deep hand pumps to provide three times more water to the affected communities. Most vulnerable families “the ultra poor” will be provided with water storage containers for safer storage of water at household levels. They will also be provided water treatment options so that they every beneficiary of the project access to quality drinking water.

Community local water reservoirs will also be repaired for storage of water aimed at both human and livestock animals. At institution level, primary schools will be provided with drinking water and sanitation facilities to build students resilience to recurrent drought shocks. Access to water component will provide a durable water solution for 45,700 individuals in 288 villages affected by drought to
sufficient, safe, fresh, potable water. The surplus water will also be available for livestock animals which is the mainstay of economy in targeted desert area. Widespread safe hygiene practice education will be provided to women through hygiene promotion session along with sessions on significance of hand washing at Household level. The targeted 3,297 vulnerable ultra poor households (having poverty scores from 0 to 19 Poverty Score Card (PSC) scores) will be provided with hygiene kit with demonstration session to use them. The project also addresses the needs of disabled people and other vulnerable individuals including the elderly, unaccompanied women, and pregnant and lactating women.

**Drought and its impact:**

Drought has greater impact, as compared to other major disasters as the later are mostly of short duration and geographically limited, while drought, by contrast, affects large geographical areas for considerable period of time. The frequency and severity of drought have increased in Umerkot, in recent years due to a combination of increasing temperatures, reduction in the number of rainy days, a significant increase in the frequency of heat waves, an indicator of forthcoming drought. During last four years District Umerkot received very nominal and inadequate rains during monsoon season, it churned the lives of human as well as animal too.

**Scenario of Drought affected 03 Union Councils of District Umerkot:**

Due to drought since 2014 the lives of people have greater impact and created humanitarian crisis. Continuous lowering of water table, non-functionality of dug wells and hand pumps, people’s limited capacity of repairing them and absence of any water schemes from Government in this remote and desert area of Umerkot has aggregated humanitarian crisis. The most vulnerable groups of affected population are ultra poor families who have no ownership/access to portable quality drinking water. Under ultra poor category, minority groups are most affected. Lack of drinking water and NFI kits for water collection and storage, has put the affected community more vulnerable to time, energy and money consumption. Moreover, due to financially weak position in the society, they have to wait for their turn after all women well off families fetch water from dug well, water reservoir and hand pumps. Since the many of the hand pumps and dug wells are dysfunctional due to lowering of water table. As a result women and children have to fetch water from other remote destinations leaving them exposed to lack of privacy. In the deteriorating scenario, elderly, unaccompanied women, and pregnant and lactating women are also the most affected groups who require special arrangements for benefitting the proposed intervention. UC Faqeer Abdullah, UC Kaplore and UC Sekhro of district Umerkot-Sindh are the worst drought affected areas with limited access to water. They are situated almost 65 kilometers away from district Head
quarter. They are situated in desert region which is part of great Desert of Thar. These UCs are situated adjacent to district Tharparker. Due to acute water shortage, people and livestock are adversely affected by the humanitarian crisis.

**WASH Intervention:** SAFWCO launched its WASH interventions in remote areas of district Umerkot with support of UNOCHA. SAFWCO is implementing the project entitled as “Integrated WASH Response for Building Resilience in Drought-Affected Desert Areas of District Umerkot, Sindh.” In this context SAFWCO contributed and concentrated on increased access to portable drinking water through installation, rehabilitation and restoration of damaged water sources.

The project increased having repaired dysfunctional hand pumps in the villages where the need was quite dire for poor & ultra-poor community. With the consultation of village WASH committees PHP and technical team of engineers identified the dysfunctional hand pumps to repair and rehabilitate, for that to know the water level and test for water quality boars were done, collected water samples and sent to PCWR Nawbshah after having gotten report from lab repaired hand pumps in drought affected villages, aimed at both human and livestock animals. In this pain staking situation (before the repairing of dysfunctional hand pumps, people had been facing so many problems, like for bring drink able they had to travel different water points, mostly females are engaged to get water (having the pots of full water and traveling to remote areas females were facing problems it affected their health time and energy. Few people have their donkey and donkey carts to get water but in drought condition they have to buy fodder for donkeys, it expended a lot therefore they left this practice and just females have responsibility, due to high population of the villages these water points are not sufficient to meet their needs therefore they had practice to rent the water tanker from urban area the expenses were high and there income was not enough to meet there daily expenses like food rations, health and education) of drought affected area of district umerkot to heal the people regarding their basic need of portable water for drinking purpose as well as for animal identified 35 villages where the hand pumps were damaged and dysfunctional.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO</th>
<th>Name of Village</th>
<th>Name of UC</th>
<th>Covered Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wallo Bheel</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>987</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taimor Talpur Kolhi</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Taimor Talpur bheel</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Syed Sadori Essro Bheel</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shahani abad Hakeem Mangrio</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Seth Tarachand Otaque</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sangramani</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Sakhi Samejo</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sadhoori Saeed Khan Shahani</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Sadho Menghwar</td>
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<td>Sabri Long jogi</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Niaz Muhammad Shahani</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nawaz Punajbi</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nawab Khaskheli</td>
<td>Faqeer Abdullah</td>
<td>140</td>
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</table>
15  Narain Kolhi  Faqeer Abdullah  292
16  Muhammad Sadique Memon  Faqeer Abdullah  250
17  Mubarak Sand  Faqeer Abdullah  572
18  Mehrab Khan Babar  Faqeer Abdullah  279
19  Magho  Faqeer Abdullah  366
20  Khadaro Saeed  Faqeer Abdullah  325
21  Kambhu Bheel  Faqeer Abdullah  464
22  Joharo Bhagat  Faqeer Abdullah  109
23  Javo  Faqeer Abdullah  426
24  Haji Mohd Waris Panhwar  Faqeer Abdullah  629
25  Fateh Mohd Shah  Faqeer Abdullah  219
26  Faqeer Abdullah Nohri  Faqeer Abdullah  488
27  Dhano Bheel  Faqeer Abdullah  1455
28  Dhanio Kolhi  Faqeer Abdullah  389
29  Dhanio Bheel  Faqeer Abdullah  330
30  Dhani Bux Khoso  Faqeer Abdullah  225
31  Allahdad Malkani  Faqeer Abdullah  197
32  Allah Bachayo Shahani  Faqeer Abdullah  399
33  Ali Faqeer  Faqeer Abdullah  164
34  Abdul Karim Ramchand Kolhi Paro  Faqeer Abdullah  221
35  Abdul Kareem  Faqeer Abdullah  251
36  Shahaniabad Abdul Hakeem Mangria Kohli  Faqeer Abdullah  309
37  Sabri Rehmani Khemani  Faqeer Abdullah  1101
38  Menghwar  Faqeer Abdullah  442
39  Haji Hoat Khan Babar Ramio Kolhi  Faqeer Abdullah  167
40  Joharo Bhagat  Faqeer Abdullah  109

**Total Covered Population**  17013

After WASH intervention and repaired existing dysfunctional hand pumps the time, energy and money is saved because before it they had to get water from remote areas (now they are able to save their time to travel the remote areas, the man power is decreased, the practice to rent the tanker of water from urban areas is seized before it their half source of income would have expensed on it therefore they were not able to meet their other needs like food ration, health and education of children, (The main source of income in desert area is seasonal cultivation and livestock) due to scarcity of water death ratio of livestock was increased and it became root cause to migrate to barrage areas with their family and livestock. People highly appreciate the intervention and are very happy because their main problem of drinking water is resolved they have been owning deep hand pumps with full of ownership and ensured to maintain and sustain these deep hand pumps in future too.
Community Quotes:

“Mr. Rahim Dino (Social & Political Activist) from village Faqeer Abdullah Nohri shared that we had been spending miserable life due to scarcity of water because of drought since years, its basic need to survive therefore people started to migrate to barrage areas as well as to urban areas for labor too. The water points are so away from our village therefore we would have faced to travel. Drop of water was our dream it came true with the intervention of WASH by SAFWCO, they installed deep hand pump having tested the quality of water therefore we are much satisfied and ensure to own the scheme to preserve sustainability of the scheme and participating actively in each activity whether of hard and soft components”.

“Mr. Adal (Social Activist) from village Haji Mohd Waris Panhwar shared that we are satisfied from WASH intervention, and very thankful to SAFWCO for launching such intervention of WASH in our area. We are benefited with the installation of deep hand pump and we are the people who really know the importance of water therefore each households took the responsibility to own it individually and collectively”.
PICTURES OF DEEP HAND PUMPS:

Figure 1: A glimpse of Repaired existing hand pump in village Mubarak Sand, Union Council Faqeer Abdullah.
Figure 2: A glimpse of Repaired existing hand pump in village Allahdad Malkaani, Union Council Faqeer Abdullah.
Figure 3: A glimpse of water fetching from Repaired existing hand pump in village Dhanio Bheel, Union Council Faqeer Abdullah.
Figure 4: A glimpse of repaired existing hand pump in village Magho, Union Council Faqeer Abdullah.