

SAFE WATER FOR LIFE

Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project Mobilizes Communities, for Clean Drinking Water in Pakistan

TURBUT, BALUCHISTAN: Once a week Daad Muhammad packs up his donkey cart with jerry cans and plastic water bags and travels from Sheetam, his small village in Turbut, Baluchistan, to a water filtration plant 5 kilometers away at a place called Singhanisar, to get clean water for his family.



“I have to travel miles to get my bags filled with water,” said Muhammad. “But even with this blistering sun and sandy winds, it’s worth the effort”- Daad Muhammad getting water from the filtration plant in Singhanisar, Turbut.

“We used to get water at home from a tube well,” Muhammad said. “But slowly and gradually that water became salty and my children started falling sick. As we found out about the importance of clean drinking water, we stopped drinking that water.”

Water borne and sanitation related diseases are responsible for nearly 60 percent of the total number of child mortality cases in Pakistan. A total of 200,000 children die every year under the age of five due to diarrheal diseases — approximately 630 every day.

The USAID’s funded Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project(PSDW-HPP), implemented by Abt Associates is working in 40 districts throughout Pakistan with the private sector, local NGO partners and the Pakistani Government to help more than 30 million Pakistani citizens gain access to clean water and better sanitation conditions. As a result, PSDW-HPP is improving health for vulnerable populations and increasing.

Muhammad learned about the filtration plant at a community gathering organized by the PSDW-HPP partner NGO at Singhanisar, Turbut. “I have to travel miles to get my bags filled with water,” said Muhammad. “But even with this blistering sun and sandy winds, it’s worth the effort”.

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While the Government of Pakistan had set up more than 6,000 water filtration plants, it did not have the capacity to maintain the plants. PSDW-HPP provides technical assistance and institutional capacity to the government and communities through local NGOs and the private sector to safely maintain and operate the water treatment systems and continue to improve the delivery of safe drinking water after the project ends.

When Muhammad's children fall sick from diarrhea, he finds it difficult to pay for doctors on his low income. "I'm the only breadwinner for my family of seven. With my children now living a healthy life, life is so fulfilling."
