PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

WASH Advocacy Initiative

Advancing WASH Policy, Accountability & Community Empowerment in Pakistan

Organization	Rural Aid Pakistan
Funding Source	SWA Civil Society Constituency – Catalytic Funding
Project Duration	Six Months
Total Budget	USD 10,000
Report Type	Final Project Completion Report
Reporting Period	Full Project Period (Months 1–6)

Contributing to SDG 6 | SWA Strategy 2020-2030 | Pakistan WASH Agenda

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the completion of Rural Aid Pakistan's WASH Advocacy Initiative, implemented with catalytic funding from the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Civil Society Constituency. The project was designed to strengthen Pakistan's national WASH agenda through high-level political advocacy, evidence-based research, accountability tools, community mobilization, and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Over the six-month implementation period, the project successfully delivered all five core activities: eight high-level advocacy meetings with parliamentarians and government officials; production and dissemination of a research report on WASH integration in Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); development and deployment of budget-tracking and community scorecard tools; twenty community WASH committee workshops engaging four hundred participants; and five national-level multi-stakeholder consultation meetings.

Key achievements include: secured high-level political commitments from parliamentary representatives in three provinces to support increased WASH budget allocations; completed a groundbreaking research report documenting critical gaps in WASH-climate policy integration; trained one hundred community volunteers in budget-tracking and accountability tools; and convened four hundred participants across multi-stakeholder consultations producing a collaborative WASH action plan for government, civil society, and donor engagement.

The project delivered significant value for money, achieving all planned outputs within the USD 10,000 budget while generating catalytic effects that extend well beyond the funding period. Lessons learned include the critical importance of sustained political relationships, the power of community-generated evidence for advocacy, and the need for ongoing capacity support for community monitoring structures. The initiative has demonstrated a clear path toward enhanced WASH accountability in Pakistan and provides a replicable model for CSO-led WASH advocacy in similar development contexts.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Pakistan's WASH crisis is well-documented but insufficiently addressed. With approximately 90 million people lacking access to safe drinking water and significant proportions of the rural population without adequate sanitation, Pakistan lags behind regional peers in achieving SDG 6 targets. These challenges are compounded by climate change, which is intensifying water scarcity, destroying existing WASH infrastructure through floods and droughts, and disproportionately affecting marginalized rural communities.

Rural Aid Pakistan (RA), a civil society organization with over a decade of WASH programming experience in Pakistan, identified a critical advocacy gap: despite the existence of national policies and international commitments, high-level political will for WASH investment was insufficient, accountability mechanisms were absent or non-functional, and communities lacked the capacity and tools to demand improved services. The organization successfully applied to the SWA Civil Society Constituency Catalytic Funding mechanism to address these gaps through a focused six-month advocacy initiative.

The project was implemented within the context of SWA's global partnership objective to build and sustain political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation, and hygiene. Pakistan's rural-urban WASH disparity, its insufficient NDC and NAP integration of WASH, and its weak parliamentary and community accountability mechanisms made it a highly relevant context for this catalytic investment. The project built on Rural Aid Pakistan's established relationships with government officials, civil society networks, and community organizations across Punjab, Sindh, and KPK.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project pursued three overarching objectives:

- Mobilize High-Level Political Support: Engage heads of state, parliamentarians, and local government officials to prioritize WASH in national policies and budgets, ensuring commitment to equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services across Pakistan.

- Enhance Accountability and Transparency: Develop and implement mechanisms such as budget-tracking systems, community scorecards, and government report cards to monitor commitments and expenditures related to WASH, fostering greater transparency and accountability.

- Produce Evidence for Informed Advocacy: Conduct research and analysis on the integration of WASH in Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans to support data-driven advocacy and community mobilization efforts.

4. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Activity 1: High-Level Advocacy Meetings

Eight high-level advocacy meetings were organized with senior political figures, parliamentarians, and local government officials across three provinces. Meetings were strategically sequenced: initial relationship-building sessions established common ground and WASH education with officials who

had limited sector exposure, while subsequent engagements focused on securing specific commitments to WASH budget support and policy integration. Rural Aid Pakistan leveraged its established institutional relationships to secure access to officials at the National Assembly level and key provincial assemblies.

A tailored advocacy package was developed for each meeting, incorporating evidence from Activity 2 research findings, community scorecard data, and SDG 6 progress benchmarks. Officials received clear, concise briefing documents outlining WASH gaps in their constituencies, the financing shortfalls, and specific asks for policy and budget action.

The key stakeholders including federal and provincial minsters, parliamentarians, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), district administration, relevant government departments, media representatives, CSOs, WASH committees, persons with disabilities, religious minorities, youth, women and community leaders actively participated in multi stakeholder's forums, consultations, dialogues and project activities.

Activity 2: Research and Evidence Production (Summary)

A comprehensive research report WASH Integration in Pakistan's Climate Policies: Assessing NDCs and National Adaptation Plans was produced and disseminated. The report documented significant gaps in WASH integration within Pakistan's climate policy frameworks, identified structural financing and governance deficiencies, and provided actionable recommendations for policymakers and donors. The report was disseminated through digital platforms, briefings to ministry officials, and presentations at multi-stakeholder forums. A summary policy brief was also prepared for parliamentary distribution.

Activity 3: Budget Tracking and Accountability Tools

User-friendly budget-tracking and community scorecard tools were developed, tested, and deployed. The budget-tracking tool enables civil society and community monitors to track WASH allocations in federal and provincial budgets against actual expenditures, using publicly available budget documents and procurement records.

The community scorecard tool provides a structured, participatory method for communities to assess WASH service quality and infrastructure status. 92 youth volunteers were trained to use both tools through a cascade training model, with master trainers from Rural Aid Pakistan training district-level champions who in turn trained community volunteers.

Collected data was compiled into a WASH Government Performance Report Card, which was formally submitted to relevant government officials at the conclusion of the project and presented at the final multi-stakeholder consultation. The report card generated significant policy dialogue and media attention.

Activity 4: Community Mobilization Workshops

Twenty Community WASH Committee Workshops were conducted across rural districts of Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), engaging 675 Community WASH Committee representatives and local leaders, including community leaders, community activists, women's group representatives, teachers, youth volunteers, and health workers.

The workshops were delivered using locally appropriate and participatory methodologies, with training content tailored to the specific WASH challenges, local governance systems, and community needs of each district.

Participants received practical training on the use of budget tracking and social accountability tools, effective engagement with local government authorities on WASH issues, and the planning and implementation of community-led advocacy initiatives.

As a result of these capacity-building efforts, the trained Community WASH Committees and local leaders are now playing a vital role in disseminating WASH information, raising community awareness, identifying local WASH challenges, and advocating with relevant government departments and decision-makers to improve WASH services and secure increased budget allocations for underserved communities.

The workshops also strengthened community ownership and enhanced the confidence of local stakeholders to actively participate in local development planning and decision-making processes. Increased collaboration between communities and government service providers has contributed to improved communication, greater transparency, and stronger accountability in the delivery of WASH services.

Furthermore, the active participation of women and youth has promoted inclusive community leadership and encouraged broader community engagement in sustainable WASH governance. These efforts have laid the foundation for long-term community resilience, improved public health, and more sustainable and equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Activity 5: Multi-Stakeholder Consultations

Five national level multi stakeholder consultation meetings were organized, collectively engaging 664 stakeholders from government ministries, parliamentary bodies, civil society organizations, officials from government line departments, media, community leaders, youth and community representative WASH groups. Consultations were structured around the findings from the research report and budget-tracking activities, creating a structured dialogue between accountability findings and the officials responsible for WASH governance. The final consultation produced a Joint WASH Action Plan, co-signed by government and civil society representatives, committing to specific follow-up actions on policy integration, budget tracking, and community accountability.

5. KEY OUTPUTS (QUANTITATIVE)

Advocacy Meetings	**8**	High-level meetings with parliamentarians and officials across 4 provinces
Participants Reached	**1400+**	Across all five activities combined, including community, government, and CSO stakeholders
Volunteers Trained	**92**	92 youth volunteers (57 male and 35 female) including 12 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and 23 members from religious minorities trained in budget-tracking and accountability scorecard tools
Workshops Held	**20**	Community WASH committee workshops across Punjab, Sindh, and KPK and 675 (276 men and 399 women) including 37 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and 113 members from religious minorities trained
Multi-stakeholder Consultations	**5**	National multi-stakeholder consultation with 664 (353 men and 311 women) including 28 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and 127 members from religious minorities participants

6. KEY OUTCOMES (QUALITATIVE)

6.1 Policy Influence

The most significant qualitative outcome of the project is demonstrable movement in the policy landscape. Three provincial parliamentarians made formal written commitments to advocate for increased WASH budget allocations in their respective assemblies, citing Rural Aid Pakistan's research findings as the basis for their positions. The Ministry of Water Resources acknowledged the research report's findings on WASH-climate policy gaps and formally requested a presentation to the Ministry's technical working group a first for a CSO in this context. The research report has been referenced in at least two subsequent CSO advocacy submissions to the government, demonstrating the multiplier effect of evidence production.

6.2 Increased Awareness

Prior to the project, most participating parliamentarians had limited awareness of WASH-specific SDG 6 commitments, the WASH-climate nexus, or the mechanisms by which WASH is or is not integrated into climate policy documents. Post-meeting assessments consistently showed improved awareness across all dimensions. Media coverage of multi-stakeholder consultations reached an estimated 50,000 people through print, digital, and social media channels, significantly expanding public awareness of WASH accountability issues beyond the direct project participants.

6.3 Improved Accountability

The introduction of budget-tracking tools and the publication of the Government WASH Performance Report Card represent a structural improvement in accountability that will outlast the project. This is the first time in Pakistan that a CSO has produced a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of government WASH expenditure aligned with publicly stated commitments, using a methodology that can be replicated and updated annually. Government officials at three district levels formally acknowledged the report card and committed to improving expenditure reporting a direct accountability outcome.

6.4 Community Empowerment

Community workshop participants reported significantly enhanced confidence and capacity to engage with local authorities on WASH issues. Follow-up assessment at the conclusion of the project found that community WASH committees in eight participating districts had already used their newly acquired skills and tools to formally engage local government officials an activity none had undertaken prior to the project. Women participants particularly highlighted the value of having structured, evidence-based tools that legitimize their advocacy in often male-dominated government engagement contexts.

7. RESULTS AGAINST PLANNED TARGETS

Activity / Output	Planned Target	Achieved	Achievement Rate	Status
High-Level Advocacy Meetings	8 meetings	8 meetings	100%	**Completed**
Parliamentarians/Officials Engaged	Key officials in 3+ provinces	Officials across 4 provinces	100%	**Completed**
Research Report Produced	1 comprehensive report	1 report	100%	**Completed**
Budget-Tracking Tools Developed	1 tool (budget) + 1 (scorecard)	2 tools + 1 report card	100%	**Completed**
Community Volunteers Trained	100 volunteers	92 volunteers	92%	**Completed**
Community Workshops	20 workshops	20 workshops	100%	**Completed**
Workshop Participants	400 participants	400 participants	100%	**Completed**
Multi-Stakeholder Consultations	5 consultations	5 consultations	100%	**Completed**
Consultation Participants	400 participants	675 participants	100%	**Completed**

8. USE OF BUDGET TRACKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS

8.1 Tool Implementation

The budget-tracking tool was developed by Rural Aid Pakistan's research team in collaboration with community representatives during a two-day co-design workshop in Month 2. The tool uses publicly available federal and provincial budget documents, PSDP data, and district development plans to construct a picture of WASH-related allocations and actual expenditures. It is structured as a user-friendly spreadsheet-based tracker with automated summary dashboards, designed for use by community monitors with basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The community scorecard was developed through a participatory process in three pilot communities, incorporating community-defined indicators of WASH service quality alongside standardized indicators aligned with national WASH monitoring frameworks. The scorecard was piloted, refined based on community feedback, and finalized before being deployed across all twenty workshop communities.

8.2 Impact on Transparency and Governance

The budget-tracking tool has already demonstrated concrete impact on transparency. In two districts in Punjab, communities used tracker findings to formally question local officials about discrepancies between announced WASH allocations and observable infrastructure investment. In both cases, district officials provided written responses acknowledging the discrepancies and committing to

corrective action the first documented instances of this type of WASH budget accountability in these districts.

The community scorecards aggregated into the Government WASH Performance Report Card revealed that, across participating communities, an average of only 58% of functional water supply infrastructure commitments had been fulfilled, and 42% of communities reported that government-installed sanitation facilities had fallen into disrepair without maintenance support. These findings were formally presented to government officials at the final multi-stakeholder consultation, generating substantive dialogue about maintenance financing and accountability.

9. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Operational Challenges
• Scheduling delays for high-level meetings due to parliamentary sessions and official travel mitigated by maintaining flexible scheduling and leveraging personal networks for rapid access when windows opened
• Initial resistance from some community members to participate in government accountability exercises due to fear of political repercussions addressed through confidence-building sessions and assurances of community-level solidarity
• Data quality challenges in extracting accurate WASH expenditure figures from fragmented budget documents mitigated by triangulating data across multiple sources and engaging a data verification expert

Political and Institutional Barriers
• Some ministry officials were initially reluctant to engage with CSO-produced research findings overcome by framing findings constructively as support for government WASH goals rather than criticism, and by securing endorsements from respected academic and technical partners
• Provincial coordination proved more challenging than anticipated due to recent administrative changes adapted by prioritizing relationships with officials who had cross-provincial mandates
• Donor agencies engaged in consultations requested more specific financing proposals than originally planned responded by developing a supplementary WASH investment case document for donor distribution

10. LESSONS LEARNED

10.1 Strategic Lessons

- Evidence-based advocacy is most effective when research findings are translated into context-specific, constituency-relevant messages for different audiences. One-size-fits-all advocacy materials do not resonate with the diversity of officials and community leaders engaged.

- The catalytic funding model is most effective when it supports activities that generate momentum for ongoing, self-sustaining advocacy. The budget-tracking tool and community scorecards have created a durable advocacy infrastructure that will continue to function after project close.
- Pre-existing institutional relationships are a critical success factor for high-level advocacy. Rural Aid Pakistan's decade of WASH programming provided the credibility and access necessary to secure meetings with senior officials who would not engage with organizations lacking a track record.

10.2 Operational Lessons

- Community workshop scheduling should build in flexibility for weather, local events, and agricultural seasons. Two workshops required rescheduling due to conflicts that could not have been anticipated, and flexible scheduling minimized impact on overall timelines.
- Training community volunteers in budget-tracking tools requires more time than initially estimated for participants with limited experience with government documents. Future iterations should extend training modules from one to two days.
- Co-production of advocacy materials with community participants rather than presenting finished products for use generates stronger ownership and more authentic advocacy.

10.3 Community-Level Lessons

- Women's participation in WASH advocacy is highest when workshops are held in safe, community-managed spaces rather than government or formal venues. Rural Aid Pakistan's decision to host all community workshops in community centers significantly increased female attendance.
- Community WASH committees are most effective when they include representatives from local schools and health facilities, as these institutions provide politically neutral entry points for WASH conversations with government officials.

11. SUSTAINABILITY AND WAY FORWARD

11.1 Continuation of Advocacy

The advocacy relationships, evidence products, and community structures created by this project will be maintained and built upon through Rural Aid Pakistan's ongoing programming. The three parliamentary champions who committed to WASH budget advocacy will be supported with ongoing briefings, updated evidence, and connection to SWA's global advocacy network. The research report and policy brief will be actively promoted through CSO networks, academic channels, and international WASH advocacy platforms to maximize their reach and policy influence.

11.2 Policy Engagement

Rural Aid Pakistan will leverage the Joint WASH Action Plan produced at the final multi-stakeholder consultation to maintain structured engagement with government counterparts. The organization is pursuing follow-up meetings with the Ministry of Water Resources technical working group to present the research findings in detail and advocate for specific policy revisions to Pakistan's NDC submission and NAP implementation plan. A parliamentary briefing session is being planned for the next legislative session to present the Government WASH Performance Report Card to relevant standing committees.

11.3 Scaling Opportunities

The budget-tracking tool and community scorecard methodology are ready for scaling to additional districts and provinces. Rural Aid Pakistan is in discussions with two consortium partners to incorporate the tools into their existing WASH programming, which would extend community-level WASH monitoring to an additional 30 districts without additional major investment. The research report methodology provides a replicable template for WASH-climate policy analysis that can be adapted for other developing country contexts within the SWA network.

12. CONCLUSION

This project completion report demonstrates that Rural Aid Pakistan's SWA Catalytic Funding Initiative achieved its intended objectives and generated measurable impact across all five activity areas. The USD 10,000 catalytic investment mobilized political commitments, produced credible evidence, built community capacity, and created durable accountability infrastructure that extends well beyond the funding period.

The project's most significant contribution is demonstrating that CSO-led WASH advocacy when grounded in evidence, connected to political realities, and rooted in community voices can shift policy positions, improve accountability, and empower communities to demand their rights to safe water and sanitation. In a country where WASH financing and governance gaps are significant, this model of catalytic, focused advocacy provides a cost-effective and replicable approach to advancing SDG 6.

Rural Aid Pakistan extends its gratitude to the Sanitation and Water for All Civil Society Constituency for the trust, flexibility, and strategic vision embedded in the catalytic funding mechanism. The organization commits to continued transparency in reporting, active participation in the SWA partnership, and dedicated pursuit of the WASH agenda for Pakistan's most vulnerable communities.

13. SNAPSHOTS

News Papers Clipping

Daily AWAMI MISSION
Editor:Muddasar Ilyas Kiyani
Islamabad
Monday 16 February 2026 Page 6

Rural Aid Pakistan Organizes Multi-Stakeholder Consultation to Elevate WASH Issues on National Agenda

Shakargarh(Tehsil Report) Rural Aid Pakistan organized a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation to elevate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) issues on the national agenda. The event aimed to mobilize high-level political support and engage key stakeholders to ensure that WASH is prioritized in policy formulation and budgetary decisions. Rural Aid Pakistan in partnership with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is implementing a WASH advocacy initiative in Pakistan. The initiative recognizes that WASH challenges in rural Pakistan stem not only from technological and infrastructure gaps but also from uneven political prioritization and limited inclusive governance.

Addressing the participants, Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Government of Pakistan, appreciated the commendable efforts of Rural Aid Pakistan in the WASH sector, particularly its focus on inclusive and climate-resilient water and sanitation initiatives. He highlighted that the organization is ensuring the meaningful inclusion of marginalized groups while fostering an enabling environment for policy reform and sustained community engagement. He further stated that addressing WASH-related challenges remains a key priority of the government, not only in his constituency but across underserved areas nationwide. He pledged to raise community concerns in the National Assembly and advocate for improved WASH policies and increased budgetary allocations in the upcoming fiscal year, emphasizing that strengthened investment and policy support are essential to achieving safe water, dignified sanitation, improved public health outcomes, and Sustainable Development Goal 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation."

Muhammad Akmal Sargala, MLA AJK, also addressed the consultation and appreciated Rural Aid Pakistan's valuable contributions in strengthening community resilience against climate change through WASH initiatives. He noted that a significant population of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) migrants resides in Punjab and across Pakistan. He highlighted that, in the AJK Legislative Assembly, 12 out of 45 general seats are reserved for refugees (migrants) from Jammu and Kashmir settled in Pakistan, ensuring their constitutional representation. He reaffirmed his commitment to addressing water and sanitation challenges faced by Kashmiri migrant communities and pledged to advocate for stronger WASH policies and enhanced budgetary allocations in the upcoming fiscal year.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Shahid Zia, Program Coordinator, Rural Aid Pakistan, stated that the consultation reflects a shared commitment to ensuring access to safe water, dignified sanitation, and proper hygiene for all, particularly for rural and marginalized communities. He emphasized that WASH challenges in Pakistan are deeply linked to governance, political prioritization, and inclusive decision-making.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, he referred to UNICEF data indicating that nearly 70 percent of households in Pakistan consume bacterially contaminated water, only 36 percent of drinking water is considered safe, and approximately 25 million people still practice open defecation.

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Editor:Shakeel Ahmed

Multi-stakeholder consultation meeting on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) organized by Rural Aid Pakistan in collaboration with Sanitation and Water for All at Shakargarh

Shakargarh(Tehsil Report) Rural Aid Pakistan organized a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation to elevate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) issues on the national agenda. The event aimed to mobilize high-level political support and engage key stakeholders to ensure that WASH is prioritized in policy formulation and budgetary decisions. Rural Aid Pakistan in partnership with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is implementing a WASH advocacy initiative in Pakistan. The initiative recognizes that WASH challenges in rural Pakistan stem not only from technological and infrastructure gaps but also from uneven political prioritization and limited inclusive governance.

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Muhammad Akmal Sargala, MLA AJK, also addressed the consultation and migrant communities appreciated Rural Aid and pledged to Pakistan's valuable advocate for stronger contributions in WASH policies and strengthening enhanced budgetary community resilience allocations in the against climate change upcoming fiscal year.

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Highlighting the urgency of the situation, he referred to UNICEF data indicating that nearly 70 percent of households in Pakistan consume bacterially contaminated water, only 36 percent of drinking water is considered safe, and approximately 25 million people still practice open defecation.

He stressed that these statistics represent real lives and futures at risk and require immediate and coordinated action.

The consultation aimed to influence local WASH policy and investment by encouraging authorities to allocate resources for inclusive, gender-responsive, and disability-friendly infrastructure. It also focused on raising public awareness and building support for climate-resilient WASH solutions to promote long-term behavioral and policy change. The initiative directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 6, which calls for ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Globally, one in three people still lack access to safe drinking water, underscoring the need for collective action, political will, and sustained partnerships.

Daily Karachi Times
ABC Certified
THE OPINION LEADER

Clean Drinking Water and Hygiene Top Sindh Govt Agenda: Ismail Rahu

By Sawan Khaskheli

BADIN: Provincial Minister for Universities and Boards, Muhammad Ismail Rahu, has emphasized that access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation and hygiene is essential for maintaining good health, warning that the lack of these basic services leads to the spread of dangerous diseases.

He expressed these views while addressing a "Multi-Stakeholder Consultation" event organized by Rural Aid Pakistan in collaboration with LHDP. The minister announced that Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives will now be a top priority for the Government of Sindh.

Rahu stated that, compared to other development projects this year, WASH schemes are being given greater importance, reflecting the provincial government's seriousness in improving water supply and sanitation systems.

He noted that diseases such as gastrointestinal infections, hepatitis and other epidemics are largely caused by contaminated and unsafe water, underscoring the urgent need to ensure the provision of clean drinking water.

Highlighting existing challenges, the minister revealed that nearly 80 percent of water supply schemes under the Public Health Department are currently non-functional. However, he assured that the government is taking steps to restore them as soon as possible.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Director Social Welfare Abdul Ghaffar Khoso credited the media's positive role for raising awareness in rural areas. He said many villagers are now taking self-initiated measures to ensure access to clean water and improved sanitation.

Addressing the participants, Mehboob Ali Soomro, Engineer at PHED, stressed that the success of any development project depends largely on changes in public behavior, adding that without community adoption, projects cannot achieve sustainable results.

Participants emphasized that community involvement, transparency and accountability are key to the success of WASH initiatives. They also called for water and sanitation issues to be raised in the Sindh Assembly to ensure long-term policy solutions.

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Rural Aid Pakistan held a multi-stakeholder consultative meeting at the Municipality Hall, Shakargarh to effectively include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues in the national agenda.

SHAKARGARH (KHALID MAJEED CHAUDHARY)

The main objective of this consultation is to mobilize political support at the highest level and bring together key stakeholders to prioritize Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in policy-making and budget decisions. This initiative is part of the ongoing WASH Advocacy Program in Pakistan in collaboration with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), under which cooperation between government and non-government organizations is being promoted to ensure access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities. Addressing the event, Anwarul Haq Chaudhry, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, said that the Government of Pakistan highly appreciated the commendable efforts of Rural Aid Pakistan in the WASH sector and said that this social organization is playing a vital role for the development of backward areas. He said that addressing the challenges related to WASH is a top priority of the government. We will raise our voice effectively in the National Assembly to resolve all the issues of clean water, sanitation and hygiene on a priority basis. It is the responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities to the people. Chaudhry Akmal Sargala, Member Azad Kashmir Assembly, while addressing the gathering, said that I appreciate the excellent efforts and valuable services of Rural Aid Pakistan in the field of water sanitation and hygiene, especially their role in strengthening the capacity of communities to face the effects of climate change in Pakistan. A large population of refugees from Azad Jammu and Kashmir is residing in different parts of Pakistan including Punjab. Kashmiri refugees are looking for effective solutions to the water and sanitation problems faced by the population. Coordinator Shatra Punjab Zeeshan Haider gave details of the sanitation campaigns. Program Manager Shahid Zia said that WASH issues should be given central status in national and provincial development plans so that public health crises can be overcome.

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Clean Drinking Water and Hygiene Top Sindh Government Agenda: Ismail Rahu

Report: *MURTAZA MEMON*

BADIN: Sindh Government Prioritizes Clean Water and Sanitation Projects

Provincial Minister for Universities and Boards, Muhammad Ismail Rahu, has emphasized that access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene is essential for maintaining good health, warning that the lack of these basic services leads to the spread of dangerous diseases.

He expressed these views while addressing a "Multi-Stakeholder Consultation" event organized by Rural Aid Pakistan in collaboration with LHDP. The minister announced that Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives will now be a top priority for the Government of Sindh.

Rahu stated that, compared to other development projects this year, WASH schemes are being given greater importance, reflecting the provincial government's seriousness in improving water supply and sanitation systems. He noted that diseases such as gastrointestinal infections, hepatitis, and other epidemics are largely caused by contaminated and unsafe water, underscoring the urgent need to ensure the provision of clean drinking water.

Highlighting existing challenges, the minister revealed that nearly 80 percent of water supply schemes under the Public Health Department are currently non-functional. However, he assured that the government is taking steps to restore them as soon as possible.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Director Social Welfare Abdul Ghaffar Khoso credited the media's positive role for raising awareness in rural areas. He said many villagers are now taking self-initiated measures to ensure access to clean water and improved sanitation.

Khoso further noted a significant decline in the practice of open defecation in several villages, attributing this progress to continuous awareness campaigns by social organizations and the media, which have helped bring about positive behavioral change. Addressing the participants, Mehboob Ali Soomro, Engineer, PHED has stressed that the success of any development project depends largely on changes in public behavior, adding that without community adoption, projects cannot achieve sustainable results.

Soomro also pointed out that several reverse osmosis (RO) filtration plants became non-functional due to a lack of ownership and maintenance. He recommended making the provision of clean drinking water and proper washroom facilities mandatory in schools, colleges, and hospitals under WASH projects to ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

Participants at the event emphasized that community involvement, transparency, and accountability are key to the success of WASH initiatives. They also called for water and sanitation issues to be raised in the Sindh Assembly to ensure long-term policy solutions.

In his concluding remarks, the provincial minister reaffirmed the Sindh government's commitment to providing clean water, improved sanitation, and a healthy environment, adding that ongoing WASH projects will be completed on a priority basis.

The event was attended by District Information Officer Sarfraz Samoon, Assistant Director Child Protection Deen Muhammad Dera, Shahida Qambrni, representatives Health Department, District Education Focal Person Muhammad Khan Samoon, senior journalists Shaukat Memon and Abdul Shakoor Memon, Program Manager Sawan Khasakheli, Environment Officer Shoaib Khawaja, Lal Bux Khasakheli, representatives of social organizations, and local community members.

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سڀ صحت لاءِ صاف پيئڻ جو پاڻي، سينيٽيشن ۽ هائيجين انتهائي اهم آهن: محمد اسماعيل راهو

هلندڙ سال ٻين ترقياتي منصوبن جي پيٽ ۾ واش اسڪيمز کي وڌيڪ اهميت ڏني ويئي

ڪينرين ٿي ٻيهرين جوڙ ٻيٽ جا مرض، ڀيڻائيٽس ۽ پين ۾ پاڻي ٻيهرين جوڙڻ سبب گندڻ ۽ غير محفوظ پاڻي آهي: تقريب کي خطاب

بدين (رپورٽ مرتضيٰ ميمڻ) صوبائي وزير برائ يونيورسٽيز و بورڊ محمد اسماعيل راهو چيو آهي ته سڀ صحت لاءِ صاف پيئڻ جو پاڻي، سينيٽيشن ۽ هائيجين انتهائي اهم آهن، جاڪاڻ ته اڪثر بنيادي مهلڪ جي ڪوٽ سبب ڪينرين ٿي خطرناڪ بيمارين جنم وٺن ٿيون ۽ پين ٻيٽ جا مرض، ڀيڻائيٽس ۽ هائيجين انتهائي اهم آهن. جاڪاڻ ته اڪثر بنيادي مهلڪ جي ڪوٽ سبب ڪينرين جي خطرناڪ بيمارين جنم وٺن ٿيون ۽ پين ٻيٽ جا مرض، ڀيڻائيٽس ۽ هائيجين انتهائي اهم آهن. جاڪاڻ ته اڪثر بنيادي مهلڪ جي ڪوٽ سبب ڪينرين ٿ