



FACTSHEET

PK

2014

Water and Environmental Sanitation

Water and Environmental Sanitation Improvement in Coastal Communities in Karachi



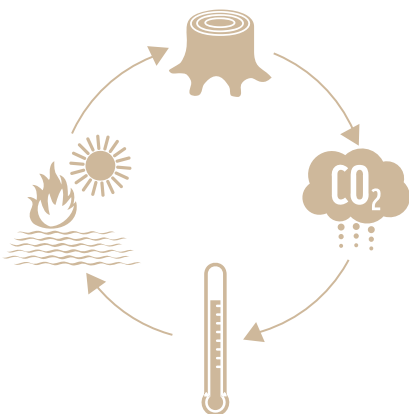
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Donor: United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT and The Coca Cola Foundation

Duration: May 2011 – October 2014

Clean water and environmental sanitation are vital for the development of a healthy society. The lack of such facilities is responsible for countless deaths across the globe. Coastal communities in Pakistan also lack such facilities which can improve health and ensure a disease-free environment. Similar unhygienic conditions prevailed in Kakapir and Soomar villages located at Sandspit and Hawksbay beaches, Karachi. Both communities lacked access to safe drinking water, exposing them to unhygienic and unsanitary conditions, and regular outbreaks of waterborne diseases were a common phenomenon. The entire community faced stark poverty issues and heavy financial burdens, having to purchase water from tankers for domestic and drinking purposes. The available water was inadequate in quantity and unsafe for drinking and personal use. Sanitation practices were also below standard and about 40 per cent of households had pit latrines. Improper drainage arrangements posed a great public health risk. Due to the absence of a solid waste management system in the villages, waste was dumped in the sea or in open fields near settlements. This led to unsuitable environmental health and unhygienic conditions.

In order to address these issues, WWF-Pakistan initiated the project Water and Environmental Sanitation Improvement in Coastal Communities in Karachi (WESK) funded by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT and The Coca Cola Foundation. The project was implemented in coastal communities of Kakapir and Soomar villages.



Objectives of the Project

1. Reduce waterborne diseases through community managed sustainable supply of clean drinking water;

2. Improve sanitation and solid waste management system;
3. Build the capacity of local fishing communities on health, hygiene, and environmental education.

Project Updates

The project has benefited a population of approximately 3,000 people of the less privileged fishing communities of both villages. Under this project, a seawater desalination reverse osmosis (RO) plant was installed in Kakapir village, Sandspit Beach. The RO plant has a supply capacity of 10,000 gallons of water per day (catering satisfactorily to 220 households in target communities). Additionally, the RO plant was complemented with a water bottling system to market treated water to subsidize the plant's operation and maintenance costs. For sustainable operation and maintenance of the RO plant, a three months hands-on training was provided to four community members as plant operators.

The project also provided a number of water and sanitation facilities in two less privileged villages. These facilities included a community managed water distribution system, a decentralized ecological sewerage system, a 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) approach oriented waste management system, cost efficient latrines with safe disposal of excreta; and two public toilets at potential tourist spots. The project also facilitated two schools with the provision of improved WES facilities.

In order to create awareness and to impart education, an interactive activity learning book titled *Hygiene Challenge with Boondu* in both English and Sindhi languages, was published. In addition to this, cultural festivals, environmental days, awareness walks and campaigns were also organized to highlight existing water, environmental and sanitation issues.




Project Achievements

- About 220 households of the target communities have easy access to safe drinking water as a result of the installation of the RO plant.
- The marketing of bottled water not only subsidizes the operation and maintenance cost of the RO plant but also introduced the concept of community entrepreneurship in targeted beneficiaries.
- The intake of quality drinking water has resulted in positive impacts on community health, as the outbreak of waterborne diseases has not been reported during the running period of the RO plant.
- Improvement in the sewerage system has brought about positive impacts on overall sanitation within the target communities. About 70 per cent of Soomer village and 60 per cent of Kakapir village now have an improved sanitation system.
- The establishment of a solid waste management system has created awareness among villagers as exemplified by their adoption of the 3R approach.
- Improvement in school water and environmental sanitation facilities has generated interests among students and brought about a reduction in school dropout rates and health hazards.
- The project has strengthened the capacity of of the CBO Fishermen Development Organization and twowater user committees which are now well aware of water and environmental sanitation initiatives.
- The establishment of Water Classrooms in underprivileged areas has provided a learning platform to approximately 10,000 students that annually visit WWF-Pakistan's Hawkesbay and Sandspit Wetlands Centre.



Poverty-Environment Linkages Goal

The establishment of poverty-environment linkages for the economic uplift of the people.

	<p>Why we are here: To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p>
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