



Sanitation for Millions – Pakistan

SUSTAINABLE SANITATION FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Background

Sanitation for Millions is a multi-donor programme set up in 2016 to contribute to safe and adequate access to sanitation. It considers the entire sanitation chain and applies sustainability criteria to ensure long-lasting results in line with the *Sustainable Development Goals*, in particular SDGs 6, 4 and 3. The programme operates worldwide, focusing notably on the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as children, women and girls, indigenous communities, refugees and internally displaced people as well as persons with disabilities.

Sanitation for Millions is mandated by the *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)* as lead donor and co-financed by the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, *Water Unite*, the *Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade* and the *Inter-American Development Bank*. The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* executes the programme in close cooperation with local partners.

Sanitation challenges in Pakistan

The situation in the *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)* sector in Pakistan is precarious. Only 58 % of the population have access to even basic sanitation services, far from fulfilling the ambition set by SDG 6. 12 % of the population still practise open defecation. 28 % of the schools in Pakistan do not have even basic sanitation, implying stress and health risks for pupils, especially girls.

The situation is worst in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where around 43 % of schools do not have access to safe



Students washing hands with soap and wearing facemasks at school

drinking water and 73 % of schools lack any sanitary facilities. The net enrolment in schools drops from 72 % at primary level of boys and girls to 32 % at high school with boys' enrolment generally being higher than girls' enrolment. In Pakistan, the Health Management Information System does not cover the WASH situation in basic health care units, which is even worse than in schools.

The precarious WASH situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is aggravated by the constant influx of refugees from Afghanistan. As of June 2020, approximately 1.4 million registered refugees live in Pakistan, about 300,000 in Balochistan and more than 800,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The provision with basic amenities and the maintenance of sanitation facilities in public institutions hence is a huge challenge in both provinces. Furthermore, water scarcity in the region and inappropriate budgets for the provision of WASH services exacerbate the problem.

Intervention of Sanitation for Millions in Uganda

Sanitation for Millions initiated its interventions in refugee hosting communities in Balochistan in July 2017. The GIZ is leading the programme implementation and cooperates closely with local partners such as the *Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)*, *Sabawon* and with international NGOs such as the *Bremen Overseas and Research and Development Association (BORDA e.V.)* and *German Toilet Organization (GTO)*. The programme cooperates at the national level with the *Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON)*, *Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)* and at the provincial level with the *Department of Education* and the *Department of Health* of the provincial governments of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Left to right: Students practising group handwashing with social distancing; The main structure of new toilets and handwashing facility is ready

Sanitation for Millions Pakistan aims at the improvement of access to safely managed sanitation along following lines of intervention:

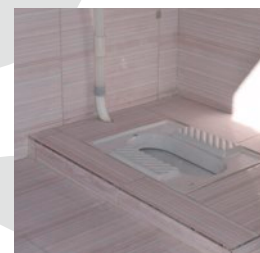
- Improved access to safe sanitation and hygiene with special attention to the needs of girls and people with impaired mobility, awareness creation on safe hygiene and menstrual health, instituting an operation and maintenance system.
- Establishment of a concept for decentralised wastewater treatment systems to efficiently reuse wastewater, e.g. for irrigation in the water-scarce provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Support to the Clean Green Pakistan Movement launched by Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- Pandemic prevention in Balochistan through awareness raising and provision of handwashing facilities.

Currently, measures are implemented in communities with low-income households in Balochistan. *Sanitation for Millions* applies appropriate, low cost technologies to improve access to safe sanitation and hygiene in public schools and health care facilities, taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Sanitation for Millions has developed its own concept for introducing and mainstreaming menstrual hygiene management in schools and intends to expand it to health care facilities and other sectors. At schools, WASH Clubs have been revived and Parents Teachers' School Management Committees established to sustain the measures and assure safe sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, *Sanitation for Millions* advises the government on an enabling environment for safe sanitation and hygiene and supports a multi-stakeholder approach with relevant government departments.

Sanitation for Millions has established the Provincial Secretariat to strengthen the national and provincial menstrual hygiene management working groups. The programme also collaborates with the private sector for joint ventures on menstrual health and its related environmental issues.

The approach of reusing wastewater was promoted by the construction of decentralised wastewater treatment systems, e.g.



From left to right: Female students learning proper hand washing; a recently installed female-friendly sanitation facility at school

at the *Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS)* with the technical support of *Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)*. The approach is going to be scaled up in collaboration with the government of Balochistan and the private sector.

Pakistan Highlights 2017-2021

- Provision of access to safe sanitation and hygiene in 43 public schools and 29 health care facilities benefiting more than 550,000 people, 52 % of them female.
- More than 240 teachers, health care workers, persons from public departments, development sector, NGOs and CSOs have been trained as master trainers on menstrual hygiene management, sensitizing boys and girls at public schools on this taboo topic.
- Establishment of a knowledge hub on DEWATS at BUIITEMS and introduction of the technology at school, community and university level.

Outlook

Based on lessons learned and success stories from other implementing countries, *Sanitation for Millions* intends – also with financial contributions of new donors – to expand its measures to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where healthcare facilities and schools will be the focus. Furthermore, *Sanitation for Millions* is going to support the Ministry of Climate Change as third-party monitoring agency.

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