



Local Leadership and Women
as Drivers of Change
in Adopting Sustainable DEWATS
Systems in the Navin Well-Field Pilot
Project in Herat City, Afghanistan

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Implementing Sustainable DEWATS in Navin Well-Field

- Why is the Navin Well-Field important?
- Why do the sanitation systems around the deep water wells in the well-field have to be changed?
- What process was used to promote change?
- How were women the drivers of change?
- How was the local leadership a driver of change?



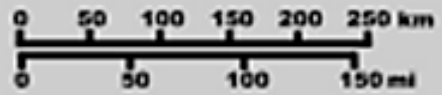
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UZBEKISTAN

CHINA

TAJIKISTAN



TURKMENISTAN

Map of Afghanistan showing location of Herat city

Main water supply source is taken from ten deep water wells in the Navin Well-Field

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN







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Traditional above-ground dry toilet

Latrine open to the ground
→ Polluting ground water





Pour-flush toilet with underground open sewage well

**Open sewage well 3 – 8 m deep
→ polluting groundwater**





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What process was used to promote change?

- 1) Community discussions – with men and women's *shuras* respectively (body of elected village representatives)
- 2) Participatory workshop to present different decentralized technology options and to select tentatively suitable options
- 3) Construct demonstration units of the tentatively selected options
- 4) Subsidize construction of new household sanitation systems (37 UDDT units, 2 sanitation biogas units)



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A meeting with women's *shura*



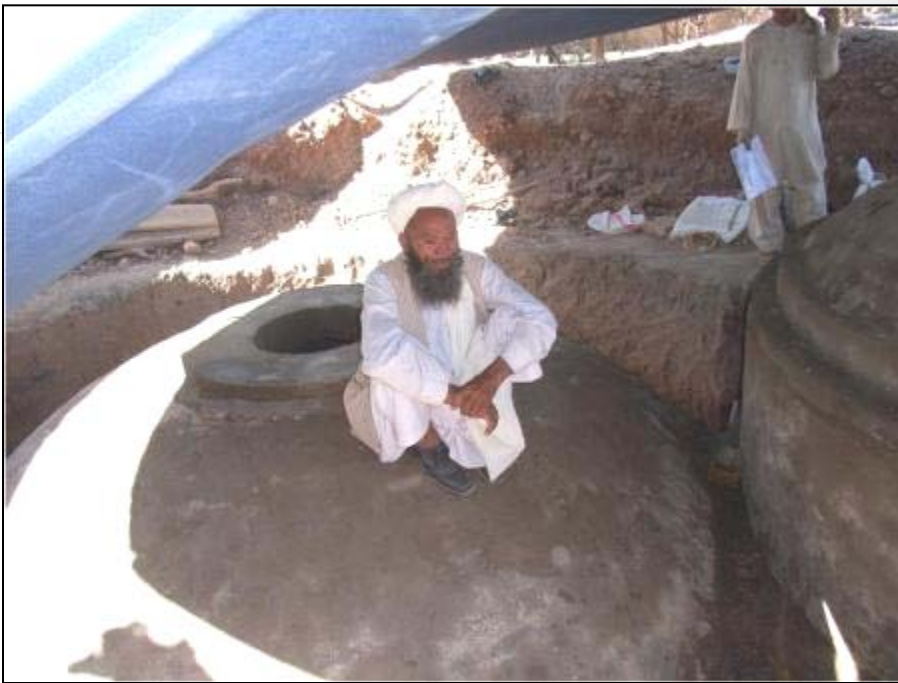


Double-vault urine-diverting dehydration toilet





Sanitation biogas unit





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Local Leadership- driver of change

Local leadership – *Arbab* of the village

- **Acceptance**- enabled entry to the community
- **Time and effort**- facilitation of project, triangulation of information
- **Forward thinking**- focusing people on long-term water resource protection; finding ways of adapting new sanitation system, such as urine management
- **Social power**- motivating people to adopt unfamiliar systems and 'down-grade' from flush toilets to dry toilets
- **Inclusive attitude**- organizing women's meetings; enabling participation in a public forum (the workshop)



Men's side of the curtain at the technology selection workshop





Conclusion

In order to convince a community to adopt household sanitation systems which are unknown, change agents within the community are essential. In the case of Navin Well-Field Area, these drivers of change were the women and the local leadership.