



**Pakistan Water Partnership Activities in Tharparkar and Cholistan**



**September 2023**



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP)

Pakistan Water Partnership PWP was established in February 1999. Soon after its establishment; Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) became instrumental in organizing a number of important meetings at national and provincial levels which attract a large number of stakeholders. Pakistan Water Partnership PWP maintains close relationship with official agencies like the Ministry of Water & Power; Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA); Ministry of Environment, Planning Commission, Provincial Agriculture and Irrigation Departments. PWP with mission to provide the communities dwelling in Pakistan with safe & secure drinking water has initiated to promote the concept of Bio Sand Water Filter by demonstration & training of community, rain water harvesting and introduced the concept of IWRM. PWP works at two processes i.e. policy makers on grass root level stakeholders with enunciated objectives of main stream youth and gender.

### 1.2 Tayaba Welfare International Association (TWIA)

Tayaba Welfare International Association (TWIA) is a nascent organization, whose positive and scalable efforts, since its establishment, The founders of Tayaba Organisation, Bilal Bin Saqib and Momin Saqib received the **Points of Light Award** from the British Prime Minister – Boris Johnson for their contributions within ‘Tayaba Organisation’, for ease in access to water in Pakistan and ‘One Million Meals’ initiative during COVID-19, the honorable Queen's London office and locally by the Ministry of Water Resources and Dasani Water Warrior Campaign. The organization is focused on the grave situation of water scarcity and the associated problem of non-existent or poor infrastructure for water; Tayaba offers an intervention model, the ‘H2O wheel’.

date, Tayaba has successfully distributed thousands of H2O wheels across Pakistan, while expanding the project to other areas, local and international, wherever the demand and need are observed and reported

H2O Wheel stands for “Help 2 Others” Wheel which is a specially designed water-carrying device tailored as a simple and effective product that helps transport clean water safely. This intervention intends to remove the burden off the shoulders of those, for whom obtaining water is a struggle.

The current design of the H2O wheel is produced from UV stabilized polyethylene. It has a firm handle for control over tough and rocky rural terrain and allows the water to be carried inside the wheel rather than above one’s head. The heavy weight of the 40-liter wheel is borne on the ground, whereas a sealed cap ensures that the water

Is stored and transported hygienically. Much recently, Tayaba has become one of the first charities/NPOs to fundraise in an NFT Fundraiser Using Crypto.

### **1.3 MOU between Pakistan Water Partnership and Tayaba Welfare International Association;**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) has been signed between Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP and Tayaba Welfare International Association (TWIA), a not-for-profit organization.

Tayaba Welfare International Association and PWP wished to memorialize their intent to collaborate with each other for Humanitarian Support in the country by providing water carrying H2O (Help 2 Others) Wheels in different areas of Pakistan, specifically in desert area of Punjab (Choilistan) and Sindh (Tharparkar). PWP will also act as implementation partner to install 2 Submersible Solor Water Pumps with Water Tanks in Tharparkar. Tayaba Welfare International Association will provide grants for these activities.

purpose of this MOU is to identify and outline the operations and activities that Tayaba Welfare International Association and PWP intend to collaborate. The PWP will conduct needs assessment survey of the deprived communities of different desert area of Punjab (Choilistan) and Sindh (Tharparkar). Based on the Needs Assessments survey report, the Tayaba Welfare International Association will review and approve the provision of H2O Wheels to PWP for distribution to deserving communities. The PWP and Tayaba Welfare International Association will jointly develop household assessment and selection criteria, a distribution plan of distributing H2O wheels and guidelines for community mobilisation, awareness seminars and branding on mutually negotiated

timelines.



**Tharparkar Map**



## **2. Purpose of visit**

The purpose of this brief report is to document some efforts jointly made by Pakistan Water Partnership and Tayaba Welfare International Association (TWIA), a not-for-profit organization in collaboration with Indus Area Water Partnership, Faroozan Media Group and Tharparkar Area Water Partnership to develop the lives of downtrodden communities dwelling in areas of Tharparkar in terms to provide 350 H<sub>2</sub>O water wheels **Amount Rs: 2,450,000/-** to water-scarce communities in Tharparkar. Pakistan Water Partnership aimed to collaboration with Cholistan Area Water Partnership and Bahawalpur Environmental Club launch the plantation campaign with the aim of planting 2500 saplings in Bahawalpur. The saplings have been planted on the Radio Pakistan Bahawalpur , Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur with the financial and technical support of Pakistan Water Partnership. The other important target was to Launch the Indus Area Water Partnership in Karachi

## **3. PWP Team (Area Water Partnership) Conducted Needs Assessment Survey (H<sub>2</sub>O) wheels in Chachro-Tharparkar;**

Tharparkar District, is one of the districts of Sindh province in Pakistan. It is headquartered at Mithi. It has the lowest Human Development Index of all districts in Sindh. Traditionally the economy of the district population depends on livestock and agriculture. If a family requires cash for essential commodities or services, they trade-in or sell their animals to fulfil their requirements. Chachro tehsil is a taluka of Tharparkar



Figure 1 ; Need assessment Survey highlights

District in Sindh, Pakistan. Khokhrapar railway station, also known as Zero Point railway station, is located in the border town of Khokhrapar of this taluka. The Thar Express (international passenger train) connects Karachi to Jodhpur through this terminus.

The economy of the region is predominantly pastoral. People have practiced a nomadic life style for centuries. The nomads own large herds of camels, cattle, sheep and goats. The region

lacks modern communication system and can be traversed by either camels or jeeps. Local people use camels as a mode of transportation. Habitations are small and extremely scattered. The pastoral system is characterized by mass migrations of animals and people throughout the year in search of water and fodder.



**Figure 2; Need assessment Survey highlights**

Field survey in the Chachro-Tharparkar area covering a major portion of the population. Mr. Qamar Ul Din President Tharparkar Area Water Partnership and Mr. Madad Ali (Local Activities) were the key team members of this survey. This field visits include primary data collection from the local resident through door to door and Focus group discussion. A separate interview was arranged from females considering their cultural and religious norms. Moreover, meetings were arranged with government bodies and local leaders. During these meeting local issues regarding water scarcity, water quality and water management were discussed which would help them to design viable mechanism for the distribution of H<sub>2</sub>O wheels in the most needed hotspot areas of Chachro-Tharparkar.

Where both men and women travel long distances to collect the water is usually carried in earthen pitchers on heads. H2O wheel has been a most welcome means in transporting water to their houses.

#### **4. Distribution of (H2O) Water Wheels in Tehsil Chachro-Tharparkar;**

Pakistan Water Partnership in collaboration with Tayaba Welfare International Association (TWIA), to provide 350 H2O (Help-2-Others) Water Wheels to water-scarce communities Tharparkar. PWP Country Coordinator Mr. Muhammad Awais, Mr. Mehmood Alam Khalid (President Faroozan AWP/Company Member PWP) and Dr. Taha Shabir (President Indus AWP/Company Member PWP) were present at the moment. H2O wheels are specially designed 40-litre



***Figure 3: Distribution of H2O Water Wheels***

drum containers with handles which enable people to roll water from its source rather than carry it on their heads the traditional way; in terracotta pots which are not only heavy, but have a limited Capacity. Tharparkar Area Water Partnership already conducted field survey in the village Rohiraro Sahibani Tehsil Chachro, Tharparkar area covering a major portion of the population. This field visits included primary data collection from the local resident through door to door discussion. The project offers not only hygienic transportation but also hygienic storage for water and will help reduce the incidence of disease. It will also alleviate the physical burden on women and children of lifting heavy loads, thereby reducing injury.





Moreover, the project aims at supporting educational and economic opportunities for women and children thanks to time saved by the use of H2O Water Wheels in comparison to traditional water transportation methods. The wall thickness of the H2O wheel will prevent sharp stones, glass and barbed wire from damaging the Wheel. However, do not allow the drum, while filled with water, to fall down or roll downhill into rocks and trees as this may cause a crack and render the wheel unusable. Water fetching activities using traditional modes of carrying water, i.e., head loading of mud pitcher/jerry cans, have adverse effects on health as it can create neck or shoulder strain.



Usage of H2O Wheels will reduce the physical effort and burden of collecting water. Water is safe in H2O wheels due to its caps design, decreases the chances of prevailing bacteria and water-borne diseases.

In addition, by introducing a gender-neutral transportation method and encouraging male engagement, the project helps redefine gender roles by reframing the enduring perception of water fetching and transportation as being “women’s work”. It will therefore reduce the burden on women, one H2O Water Wheel at a time.

The H2O wheels 40 Litre capacity carries 5 times more water, freeing up

Figure 4: Distribution of H2O Water Wheels

more time and energy to focus on household tasks, education and farming needs. The wide rolling surface of the H2O wheel compacts the soil and protects pathways from the effects of erosion caused by wheelbarrows.



Communities to be selected based on need, and the project will benefit large number of people directly (and many more indirectly) in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) including Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).



Figure 5: Children Carrying H2O Water Wheels



Figure 6: Highlights of distribution H2O Water Wheels



## 5: Future Recommendations

### Construction of Two Water Tanks and Installation of Solar Submersible Pumps for deserving communities in Tharparkar:

- PWP marked 2 sites for repairing, maintenance and reconstruction of wells. One of the major reasons which create huge hurdles in availability of water is the absence of electricity so there is a dire need of Solar Submersible Pumps to make these wells functional for future.
- As machinery, equipments and trained manpower aren't available at destination, So need more comprehensive budgeting with timely implementation



**Figure 7: PWP sites visit for future recommendation (Highlights)**

**Distribution of Help-2-Others  
(H2O) Water Wheels In  
Tharparkar (September 2023)**



**In Partnership between**



**Supported By: Syed wali Hassan & Azra Bano**

Tharparkar Area Water Partnership, Indus Area Water Partnership and Faroozan Media Group



## **6. Rising Suicide Cases in Tharparkar: A Call for Urgent Intervention;**

### **Introduction**

The district of Tharparkar in Sindh, Pakistan, is currently grappling with a distressing surge in suicide cases. Poverty, malnutrition, domestic violence, and a range of socio-economic factors have pushed many individuals to take their own lives. In response to this alarming situation, the district administration has reached out to the Sindh Mental Health Authority for assistance, while local police are mobilizing civil society activists to raise awareness and sensitize communities. Tharparkar District Administration recently reported that 65 people have tragically committed suicide in the district since the beginning of the year.



### **Causes of Suicides**

The primary causes contributing to the rise in suicide cases in Tharparkar are multi-faceted and complex:

1. **Poverty:** Widespread poverty is a driving force behind these suicides, as individuals struggle to meet their basic needs due to economic hardships.
2. **Malnutrition:** The lack of access to nutritious food exacerbates health issues, weakening individuals both physically and mentally.
3. **Unemployment:** High levels of unemployment have left many without a stable source of income or livelihood, leading to despair.
4. **Drug Abuse:** Substance abuse has become prevalent in the region, often used as a coping mechanism to escape the harsh realities of life.
5. **Domestic Violence:** Cases of domestic violence are alarmingly high, subjecting individuals to physical and emotional trauma.
6. **Debt Mafia:** Loan sharks lending money at exorbitant interest rates have ensnared vulnerable individuals in crippling debt.



## **Efforts and Recommendations**

In response to the crisis, several initiatives and recommendations have been proposed to address the issue:

1. **Sindh Mental Health Authority Intervention:** The district administration has requested the Sindh Mental Health Authority to establish a full-time rescue center staffed with neurologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists to provide counseling and treatment to those displaying suicidal tendencies.
2. **Anti-Suicide Cell:** Tharparkar SSP has established an anti-suicide cell within the police force to monitor investigations into suicide cases and take preventive measures.
3. **Awareness Campaigns:** The presentation at a consultative meeting suggested employing social and mainstream media platforms for awareness campaigns. Religious figures and healthcare practitioners can play a crucial role in counseling and education.
4. **Incorporating Suicide Education in Schools:** Educating students about the consequences of suicide within the school curriculum can help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues and suicidal thoughts.
5. **Addressing Medical and Recreational Needs:** Access to adequate medical treatment and recreational facilities needs to be improved to address the mental health needs of the community.
6. **Challenging Family Hindrances:** Hindrances to police investigations, often posed by close family members of the deceased, need to be addressed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances leading to suicide.

## **Conclusion**

The escalating number of suicides in Tharparkar is a grave concern, reflecting the urgent need for intervention and support. Poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, domestic violence, and debt have combined to create a perfect storm of despair in this region. The concerted efforts of the district administration, police, civil society activists, and mental health authorities are essential to provide immediate relief and long-term solutions to

address this crisis. It is crucial that a multi-pronged approach is taken to address not only the immediate causes but also the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to these tragic events.



Figure 8: Traditional Houses Tharparkar

## **7- Launching Ceremony of Indus Area Water Partnership-Karachi.**

The Launching ceremony of Indus Area Water Partnership was held in Karachi in collaboration with Faroozan Area Water Partnership.

Mr. Awais Country Coordinator PWP shared the guidelines of formulating AWP and list of follow up actions leading to launching of the AWP. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the host and thanked the participants for sparing their time to attend the meeting. Area water partnerships vowed to set priorities and undertake activities to solve grassroots problems faced by communities related to water, Agriculture and environment.



Launching Ceremony of Indus Area Water Partnership-Karachi



Date: September 19, 2023

Supported By: Faroozan Media Group



## 8- Plantation Campaign:

In pursuance of Prime Minister of Pakistan special drive of tree plantation, Pakistan Water Partnership in collaboration with Bahawalpur Environment Club and Cholistan Area Water Partnership have launched the plantation campaign with the aim of planting 1500 saplings in Cholistan. The saplings have been planted on the Radio Pakistan Bahawalpur and Quaid-e-Azam Medical colleague Bahawalpur with the financial and technical support of Pakistan Water Partnership.

Bahawalpur Radio Station Director Mr. Imran Javeed said in his address that, the federal and provincial governments are working together on various types of green initiatives to create a healthier and greener environment for future generations.


He further revealed that around many urban forest projects are currently underway in different area of Punjab. He also said that the presence of urban forests ensures food availability (and shelter) for different bird species living within metropolitan areas. He also added that the country's efforts to increase greenery and vegetated areas were now being recognised by the international community. The premier also urged the citizens to play their part (individually and collectively) in the tree plantation drive, which was to enhance and restore the forest cover that Pakistan had lost in recent years as the issue remained neglected for a very long time.

In the end Mr. Muhammad Awais Company Secretary Pakistan Water Partnership addressed that the tree plantation is combined responsibility of all of us to create a favorable environment for future generations. He further said that planting trees make the environment cleaner and reduce air pollution. He appreciated the community volunteer work and thanked all those who had participated and supported the campaign.







  
*Save Tree, Save Environment*  
**Plantation Drive**  
**Aug-Sep 2023**  
**BAHAWALPUR**  
 Organized By : Pakistan Water Partnership  
 Supported By :  
 Bahawalpur Environmental Club



**Figure 9: Some Highlights Plantation Drive**

**Special Thanks:**

On Behalf of Pakistan Water Partnership, we are thankful to our worthy donor Tayyba Welfare Association who donated 350 H2O water wheels to make **Mission Tharparker** possible. We are also thankful to Dr. Taha Shabir PWP Company Member, Syed Wali Hassan & Azra Bano, Farozan Magazine and Tharparker Area Water Partnership to be our financial/strategic partner.

<b>Partners Contribution</b>				
<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Amount ( Euro)</b>	<b>Amount in PKR</b>
1	Tayaba Welfare Association	Partner PWP	7,900	2,450,000
2	Syed Wali Hassan & Azra Bano	Partner PWP	210	65,000
3	Dr. Taha Shabir	Company Member PWP	190	60,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8,300</b>	<b>2,575,000</b>

