

Changing Lives

February 2010

IWRM Principles and Processes: From Advocacy to Action

Karachi, Pakistan, is a mega city and the work of Karachi Water Partnership is at many levels – from policies, strategies and processes to simple interventions at schools. How peoples' lives are changing for the better in terms of water security is illustrated from one of 18 Towns in Karachi – Gulshane Iqbal Town (GIT) – where a GWP Area Water Partnership (AWP) and a Women and Water Network has been in place since May 2008. The Town has a population of 1.75 million people.

The following story shows how a stakeholder forum and a set of interventions built around water conservation guidelines have been taken to scale through IWRM processes.

Putting Water Conservation at the Center of Local Government

The elected administrator of the Gulshane Iqbal Town understood IWRM through numerous meetings and interactions and was able to internalize the urgent need for water conservation. The AWP gave him and his colleagues the neutral forum where they could interact with the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), City District Government Karachi (CDGK), other government departments, citizens, business people, shopkeepers, women and other stakeholders, to develop consensus on policy and actions.

When the GIT government printed several million copies of their water conservation guidelines at their own cost, the KWSB agreed to attach these guidelines to their monthly water bills and deliver them free of charge to over a million consumer units (schools, homes, offices, factories).

The GIT government did not stop at that. They have instituted their own cadre of water inspectors, with uniform, hat, and friendly demeanor who, armed with water conservation guidelines, are teaching people about



A Water Secure World

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation with a worldwide network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 73 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 150 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.

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conserving water. Local TV channels and FM radio stations have reported on these initiatives.

The Deputy Town Officer, Mr Ikramullah Khan, has become a tireless worker for the cause of water conservation and says that learning to work in a stakeholder forum with shared values has changed the way he operates as a government servant.

Improvements in the lives of School Children

In a cluster of five schools in GIT, there was no water or sanitation facilities for these schools where 1,200 children are enrolled. If they needed toilets they had to run to nearby apartments or just use the lanes nearby. The girls were shy to relieve themselves in this way and left the school. The teachers (mostly women) faced the same problem. The IWRM process initiated through the AWP brought forth such issues and engaged forcefully with school authorities and the KWSB and action was taken. The Town engineers,



especially Mr Jalal Haidar (of KWSB) were able to get the sewerage lines put in, the infrastructure improved and local philanthropists donated money for putting in a new water pipeline.

The five schools now have a water pipeline, storage tanks, and drinking water. There are toilets for teachers and students and the school looks clean and well kept. Children do not have to lug water from home and since a majority of

the children come from squatter settlements where there is no regular water supply, the plentiful drinking water is a boon. These children are also learning new values – how to use water sparingly so that there is enough for everyone to share this precious resource.



Women Ambassadors of Water Conservation

The Women and Water Network of GIT is led and supported by very active women, including elected counselors and teachers. They have flooded GIT with water conservation guidelines distributed at parks, roadsides, mosques, festivals and markets. And this is in addition to the guidelines delivered with the water bills to consumers.

What are the results at the household level? Women in particular say they never knew how much water was wasted in homes and have adopted the water-saving guidelines. To hear them speak now is as if they are trained ambassadors of water conservation!

GWP Impact

The contribution of IWRM-based stakeholder platforms on water was foundational to the success of this advocacy and action campaign. GWP provided the funds for the very crucial dialogues, and the money for the actual interventions came from government, corporate support and local philanthropists.

The AWP 'thought big' and went for scale and mass action (delivery of water conservation guidelines en masse). Within these strategic mass actions, now smaller practical interventions can be designed (such as providing drinking water and sanitation to schools), and water inspectors monitoring water wastage.

