

**Achievements to date:**

- Pakistan's Government plan to implement WaterAid's rainwater harvesting, solid waste (rubbish) management and media initiatives nationally.
- WaterAid played a key role in helping to deliver both the National Sanitation Plan and the Pakistan Sanitation Action Plan.
- WaterAid has successfully promoted a sewage pipe payment scheme and lobbied the Government for mainline connections in urban slums, improving sanitation for hundreds of people.

**£4** could pay for a bag of cement

**£44** could pay for a street theatre show on hygiene issues for 100 people

**£70** could pay to build a ventilated improved pit latrine

**£696** could pay for the construction of a 30,000 litre underground reservoir to provide six households with drinking water

**Amna Bibi** lives in the small village of Tharparkar. Her community's only source of water is an unsafe well two hours walk from Amna's home.



"We have sweet water in only our dreams. It is really sad for me to see my children drinking brackish and saline water when I put so much effort and time in fetching it from a far away well. During droughts, the well water gets all muddy and dirty. Drinking such water makes our children get sick leading us to spend more money on doctors than on our children's education and food."

To help Amna and her community, some of whom spend up to eight hours a day collecting water, WaterAid's partner has started work on a rainwater harvesting project. Storage systems will help local people store rainwater safely for use throughout the year.

**Sartaj** is a sixth grade student at a school that WaterAid's partner recently helped to build new latrines.



WaterAid's partner worked with the school with the aim of cleaning up the environment and showing pupils what a difference good sanitation makes. The hope is that the pupils will then promote the use of hygienic latrines to their families. Sartaj says, "We don't have a latrine at home, but since I started using the toilet at school I told my mother that I felt more comfortable and now my father is planning to build one at home."

Another benefit of the new facilities is that girls and boys have separate toilets which has improved girls' attendance rates. Headteacher Baksh Solangi says that girls used to stay home from school as there were embarrassed about sharing facilities. He now hopes more parents will send their girls to school.

# Pakistan



Pakistan is a geographically diverse country ranging from snowcapped mountains to deserts. Over a third of Pakistan's population live in urban areas but it is estimated that by 2015 this will grow to almost half of the total population, creating an increased demand on water and sanitation services.

Around 17 million people in Pakistan do not have access to safe water. This, coupled with inadequate sanitation and limited knowledge of hygienic practices, contributes to the deaths of thousands of people each year from diarrhoeal diseases.



WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.



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## WaterAid in Pakistan



WaterAid started funding work in Pakistan in 1993, opening an office in Islamabad in 2006. We now work with 14 partner organisations in ten districts of Pakistan helping communities to gain access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation.

According to Pakistan's Federal Minister for the Environment, diseases related to unsafe water and poor sanitation cost Pakistan's economy 112 billion Rupees (approx £8 billion) per year in health expenses and lost earnings.

### Water

A 2006 report by the World Bank found that Pakistan is rapidly becoming a water scarce country, mainly due to high population growth and irregular rainfall. In September 2009, the government approved a National Drinking Water Policy, acknowledging access to safe drinking water as a basic human right and its responsibility to provide this for all its citizens. WaterAid is advocating at national and district levels to ensure this policy is implemented.

Through our partners in Pakistan we enable poor communities to access safe water by working with them to build new water sources or rehabilitate old facilities. We also help people to understand how unsafe water and poor sanitation spread disease.

Examples of our work include a rainwater harvesting project in the Thar Desert, which will collect rainwater during the monsoon season and is expected to supply local people with safe water for nine months of the year. In Gujranwala WaterAid influenced the local government

to rehabilitate a water supply scheme that now brings clean water to 2,500 people.

### Sanitation

WaterAid's partners work closely with local governments to promote better sanitation practices across the country. Our partners, The Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), worked with local communities in Karachi to construct and improve sewers in low-income areas where residents previously had to live with unhygienic open sewers. Through negotiations with the city's sewage and water authority the community have financed and managed their own facilities, which are connected to the city's main drainage. OPP's achievements have been recognised by the Ministry of Environment and used as an example to reinforce the implementation of the government's National Sanitation Policy.

In Pakistan girls often drop out of school once they reach puberty because there is a lack of safe, private toilets. Another of WaterAid's partners, Indus

Tania learned good hygiene practices at school.



Resource Center, is working with schools to rehabilitate and build new sanitation facilities, creating healthy learning environments and encouraging girls to stay in school.

### Hygiene

Increasing hygiene awareness is central to the success of our projects. We promote good hygiene practices, like hand-washing, in a number of ways such as community meetings, interactive performances and sermons in local mosques. These methods not only raise awareness but serve to build trust between hygiene educators and communities. Extensive work has also been done on the inclusion of hygiene education in schools. Sessions are run for teachers on how they can include personal and environmental hygiene messages in assemblies.

Women spend hours collecting unsafe water from deep hand-dug wells in Kacho where water is scarce and only readily available, but dirty, when it rains.



### Pakistan

Area:	796,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Capital:	Islamabad
Other main cities:	Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi
Population	173.2m
Infant mortality	78/1,000
Life expectancy	66.2 yrs
Water supply coverage	90%
Sanitation coverage	58%
Below poverty line	32.6%
Human development index	141
Adult literacy	54.2%
Number of children dying from diarrhoeal diseases very year	52,800

Official statistics tend to underestimate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large factor. There are not sufficient resources available for accurate monitoring of either population or coverage. Varying definitions of water and sanitation coverage are used and national figures mask large regional differences in coverage.

