

RESTORING PROMISE IN BANDAI

The restoration of the drinking water system in village Bandai is also restoring promise in the lives of the local people. "Ever since the floods, I have been I carry heavy loads of water every day," says Asma, a 12 year old girl from the village. "With the new water (supply) arriving, I hope these difficult days will pass, and my family and I will be able to live normal lives again."

Bandai village is located close to the river, which was flooded and ruined the nearby drinking water system in the village. Soon after the floods, while assistance came, sufficient assistance for reviving the water infrastructure the village did not.

Asma is the daughter of a local villager named Talimand. Asma has three sisters and one brother. Together with her siblings, she spends most of the time collecting and carrying water, which means that along with her siblings, she is no longer able to focus on her schooling: "I make eight rounds from the water source every day. Every round involves me walking half an hour to and from the water source and



Asma carrying water to her house.

carrying two heavy buckets of water. With so much work, I struggle to go to school. I am in class four, but the labour has made it difficult to study. I am also ill because of the carrying the heavy water."

Recognizing the crisis in their village community, the local community organization (CO) in the village, Sitara Falahi Tanzeem, agreed to participate in the APF funded RSPN micro-infrastructure project being implemented by SRSP in their district of Swat. The drinking water system is now half-way complete, with APF covering 80 percent of the total cost of over Rs. 5 lacs. Once completed, the system will alleviate the water borne diseases in the area, along with restoring the productive activities in the lives of the local people, particularly girls and women. The imminent completion has therefore raised the spirits of local community members, including Asma's: "My entire family is talking about and looking forward to the return of our water. I will be able to go to school again."

"MY ENTIRE FAMILY IS TALKING ABOUT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF OUR WATER. I WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL AGAIN."