

Project Success Story

The settlement Baheed Khan Khaskheli is located 50 Km due south of Umerkot town. This settlement is situated in Nabisar Thar (Revenue Village) from the Union Council Faqeer Abdullah. According to an approximated figure the settlement Baheed Khan Khaskheli is comprised of nearly 400 households. The local residents belong to different communities such as Jogi, Khaskheli, Bheel, Bughya and Kolhi. These communities have been living together since ages despite belonging to different casts and creed. Majority of the local people are stranded by poverty and are living pitiable life. In order to make their living people either opt to work as labors or cultivate lands which mainly depend on the monsoon season.

The lacking water facility is one of the major problem of the area mainly because of low water precipitation and the nature gifted rugged sandy terrain. It compels men, women and children fetch water from distantly located dug-wells which are usually available at the distance of about 3 to 5 kilometers away from their homes. Surprisingly, after all the hardships of long distance travel the water that is fetched is found bitter in taste and unhealthy for drinking purposes. Despite the odds though the provision of water tank facility is available on payments in the area; however, the luxury is enjoyed by very small number of people where majority still has to march to far-flung areas in order to meet their water requirement.

During the implementation of the Tahafuz project, the community members of the revenue village Nabisar Thar which came under the scope of the project were approached by the project field staff. They were given orientation of the project and consented to get their willingness for taking part in implementation of various project activities mainly inspired to create community's ownership in the project.

To cater DRR needs of this revenue village, a VDMC was formulated in consensus with the community. The VDMC comprised of minimal of 10 members based on gender balance composition. The capacities of the selected VDMC members were later enhanced to enable them promulgate the gained knowledge to other community people. During the activities the VDMC developed a Revenue Village level Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) in which they proposed number of most needed disaster mitigation schemes. Given the scarcity of water resources as well as the limited water wells that existed at considerably distant locations, VDMC in consensus with local people prioritized the construction of a dug-well among all the

schemes that were identified during DRMP activity. The community agreed to construct this dug-well in one of the settlement area named Baheed Khan Khaskheli from the Revenue Village Nabisar Thar.

The VDMC was given the overall responsibility of the construction work of the dug-well which included identification of labors, procurement of material based on quotations, making payments to vendors, monitor construction activities, report progress and carry out maintenance activities. The scheme was completed within a period of 21 days with an amount of PKR 200,000.



Women getting facilitated with a dug-well constructed in settlement Baheed Khan Khaskheli of Revenue Village Nabisar Thar of district Umerkot

The target community remained very fortunate as the scheme benefited them with sweet water yield contrary to other dug wells. The scheme resulted in reducing their suffering of fetching water from distant places. Women can now fetch water easily, which has helped them in sparing their men who can now go to work that earlier remained occupied in arranging water for their households.

Villagers of Baheed Khan Khaskheli thanked TRDP, RSPN and USAID for their support in construction of this scheme that reduced the level of hardship they use to face in meeting their water requirement. They also appreciated other project activities and hoped that this project will improve the capabilities of local people to cope with disasters.