Sanitation for Millions – Pakistan

SUSTAINABLE SANITATION FOR REFUGEE HOSTING COMMUNITIES

Sanitation for Millions

Sanitation for Millions is a multi-donor programme set up to provide access to adequate and equitable sanitation. A special focus is on the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Sanitation for Millions has started implementation in three countries (Jordan, Pakistan, and Uganda).

Sanitation for Millions strives for sustainable solutions considering the entire sanitation chain and applying sustainability criteria to ensure long-lasting results in line with the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 6, SDG 4 and SDG 3.

Sanitation for Millions is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as lead donor, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK-based solidarity fund Water Unite and the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is leading the programme implementation. GIZ cooperates closely with local partners in the respective implementation countries as well as with national and international NGOs.

Challenges for Sustainable Sanitation in Pakistan

The WASH situation in Pakistan is still precarious since only 58% of the population have access to even basic sanitation, which is nowhere near fulfilling the ambition set by SDG 6. 12% still practise open defecation. Overall, 28% of the schools in Pakistan do not have toilets and pupils suffer from the poor school infrastructure. In Balochistan, the situation is even worse since around 43% of the schools do not have access to safe drinking water and 73% of schools do not have access to any sanitary facilities. The net enrolment in schools drops from 72% at primary level of boys and girls to 32% at high school stage with boys’ enrolment throughout being higher than girls enrolment. The WASH situation in basic health care units in Balochistan is even worse than in schools.

The precarious WASH situation in Balochistan is aggravated by the constant influx of refugees from Afghanistan. As of June 2019, approximately 1.4 million registered refugees are living in Pakistan, about 300,000 in Balochistan.

The provision with basic amenities and the maintenance of sanitation facilities in public institutions hence is a huge challenge in Balochistan. Furthermore, water scarcity in the region and inadequate budgets for the provision of WASH services amplify the entire problem.

Intervention of Sanitation for Millions in Pakistan

Sanitation for Millions initiated its interventions in refugee hosting communities in Balochistan in July 2017. Sanitation for Millions cooperates at the national level with the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and the provincial level with Department of Education and the Department of Health of the provincial government of Balochistan.

Sanitation for Millions targets the improvement of access to safely managed sanitation along three lines of intervention:

- Improvement of sanitary facilities, awareness of hygiene, operation and maintenance of sanitary facilities in public schools, with special attention to the needs of girls; introduction of menstrual hygiene management and girls-friendly toilets at schools.
• Establishment of a concept for decentralised wastewater treatment systems to reuse the treated water for irrigation or for other purposes in Balochistan.
• Rehabilitation and improvement of operation and maintenance of sanitary facilities as well as promotion of hygiene at basic health facilities.

Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BSRP) serves as local implementation partner for Sanitation for Millions in Balochistan. Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) technically supports in the piloting of decentralized wastewater treatment systems in Balochistan.

Currently measures are implemented in host communities with low-income households situated in the vicinity of Quetta. Sanitation for Millions uses appropriate, low cost technologies for improving access to safe sanitation in public schools and health care facilities taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Sanitation for Millions has developed its own concept for introducing menstrual hygiene management in schools and intends to expand it to health care facilities. WASH Clubs have been revived in schools and Parents Teachers’ School Management Committees established to sustain the efforts and assure long-term cleanliness and hygiene. Furthermore, Sanitation for Millions works on mainstreaming menstrual hygiene management in schools and will technically support in strengthening the national and provincial menstrual hygiene management working groups.

Sanitation for Millions also advises the government on an enabling environment for safe sanitation and hygiene and supports a multi-stakeholder approach with relevant government departments.

Pakistan – Highlights 2017–19

• Provision of access to safe sanitation in 23 public schools benefiting more than 4000 students and school employees accompanied by regular training sessions on safe hygiene and health.
• At five girls’ schools, girls-friendly sanitary facilities have been constructed as role models complying with menstrual hygiene indicators of the SDGs.
• 30 plumbers have been qualified and equipped with tool boxes and bikes for mobility to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance of WASH facilities.
• 80 teachers and 25 paramedics have been trained in sustainable hygiene behavior and communication.
• 200 school teachers and lady health workers have been trained as master trainers on menstrual hygiene management sensitizing boys and girls at public schools.
• Two decentralized wastewater treatment plants have been installed at schools as pilots harnessing the reuse and recycling of greywater.

Outlook

Based on learning experience and success stories from other implementing countries, Sanitation for Millions intends – also with financial contributions of other donors – to expand its measures to additional schools and health care facilities in Balochistan and to partner with the Clean Green Pakistan Movement initiated by the Government of Pakistan. The approach of reusing of wastewater and of resource recovery through decentralized wastewater treatment plants is promoted and upscaled in collaboration with the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Science (BUITEMS) and the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA).