

Celebration of International Year of Sanitation (IYS)-2008 in Pakistan: Changing “Water and Sanitation” into “Sanitation and Water”

1.0 Background of International Year of Sanitation

In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that challenged the global community to reduce poverty and increase health and well being of all peoples. In September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg reaffirmed these goals and added access to basic sanitation as a centrepiece of the poverty eradication commitments. The target to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 was defined in the Johannesburg Plan of Action (JPOI).

The 12th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12), held in New York in April 2004, reviewed the state of implementation of the goals and targets in the thematic areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. CSD-12 identified constraints to, and continuing challenges for, the implementation of these goals, including the JPOI target on access to basic sanitation. On the basis of that review, CSD-13 in April 2005 recommended policy actions to be implemented by member States in addressing these challenges. The international community will review progress towards the implementation of these recommendations during CSD-16 in May 2008.

Despite significant efforts by the governments, progress on sanitation targets has been slow and uneven. Recognizing the impact of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment, **the General Assembly decided to declare 2008 the International Year of Sanitation** (GA resolution 61/192 of 20 December 2006). The General Assembly encouraged member States as well as the United Nations system, to take advantage of the International Year to increase awareness of the importance of sanitation to promote action at all levels, taking into account the recommendations of CSD-13.

In the above context, Oxfam GB in Pakistan is celebrating IYS in Pakistan. All the activities will be coordinated and linked with UNICEF's planned work around the year's celebration.

2.0 Brief situational analysis of Sanitation in Pakistan

Pakistan is a country of about 160 Million people 65% of which live in rural areas. Adult literacy is about 50%, and about 24% of the population live below national poverty line¹.

Despite its enormous wealth of water resources most of the rural communities in Pakistan do suffer from shortage of potable water supply system and lack of appropriate sanitation facilities. The main drinking water supply source is the ground water, and 36% of the ground water is classified as highly saline.

Water coverage is 91% and sanitation coverage is 59%² in Pakistan. These figures certainly on the water supply side seem to be reasonably high, but these figures do not actually represent the dire poor sanitation situation in the country and specially the rural communities. Lack of clean potable water supply and sanitation is extremely evident in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and NWFP. This situation is worst for the coastal belt of Sindh and the riverine districts of Punjab provinces. The poor and marginalised communities of these districts not only lack access to water but sanitation facilities are altogether absent. In the budgetary allocations at district and provincial level, water supply schemes are preferred over sanitation work mainly because water supplies schemes are talked about whereas no one likes to talk about latrines and their construction at household level. Since decision makers are mainly men in Pakistan, they lack realisation of situation that women face in absence of sanitation. The districts where sanitation funds are

¹ Government of Pakistan data taken from the 2007 Pakistan Economic survey, and population Census Organisation

² WHO; UNICEF (2006). Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

allocated also have poor governance and absence of participation by women and men. This results into low quality construction work around sanitation, making it meaningless for people, especially for women.

In the national policies and debates, water issues are highlighted but sanitation is a topic where open discussions are inadequate. Though absence of sanitation affects men and women; but women are the worst affected. Sanitation has implications in terms of gender equality and the issue is conspicuously absent from policy debate in Pakistan. Through celebration of IYS in Pakistan, we anticipate that sanitation will be highlighted along with its gender implications at the practice and policy levels. We will be able to change “water and sanitation” into “sanitation and water” to reflect implications and taboos around sanitation issues for women. We expect that this piece of our work will contribute in putting women and importance of sanitation for them in the centre of sanitation debate in Pakistan.

3.0 Overall Objective of Celebrating IYS

To influence and lobby Federal, Provincial and District governments of Pakistan to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) related with sanitation. We believe that sanitation is the foundation of health, dignity, and development. Increased sanitation access especially for poor women and men, is fundamental for reaching all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

3.1 Objectives and Planed Activities

Objective No. 1: Increase awareness and commitment from primary stakeholder including private sector at all levels, both inside and outside the sector, on the importance of reaching the sanitation MDG, including health, gender equity, education, sustainable development, economic and environmental issues, via compelling and frank communication, robust monitoring data, and sound evidence.

Activities:

- 1.1 Holding meetings and public rallies to highlight importance of safe sanitation in Pakistan. We will be holding these meetings and rallies in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 1.2 Publication of low cost sanitation models in Sindhi and Urdu
- 1.3 Holding poster exhibitions highlighting sanitation issues. We will ensure participation of rural communities, especially girl students in such exhibitions. The focus will not be on urban middle class but entirely on rural and poor areas.
- 1.4 Holding debates in schools (especially in girls schools) on sanitation issues to raise awareness among students, parent and general public.

Objective No. 2: Mobilize Governments (from district to federal level) existing alliances, financial institutions, sanitation and service providers, major groups, the private sector and UN Agencies via rapid collaborative agreements on how and who will undertake needed steps now.

Activities:

- 2.1 Presenting resolutions in district and provincial assemblies of Punjab and Sindh for an increased commitment of the government for providing safe sanitation to citizens. Our partners will take initiatives in this regard starting from district to provinces. Oxfam GB will also meet members of the standing committee of the National Assembly to highlight importance of improving sanitation in Pakistan and need for larger public investment.
- 2.2 To formulate sanitation groups of councillors at Union Council (UC) and District levels to raise voices at public forums.
- 2.3 To support UCs and District governments of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah in preparation of Sanitation plans for respective areas.
- 2.4 To arrange exposure visits for Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) of Badin, Thatta, Muzafargarh and Layyah to learn form each-others experiences around low cost rural sanitation.

Objective No. 3: Secure real commitments to review, develop and implement effective action to scale up sanitation programmes and strengthen sanitation policies via the assignment of clear responsibilities for getting this done at the national and international levels.

Activities:

- 3.1 Influence the District governments in the districts of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah (where OGB is currently working) to form a working group to review work on sanitation (and water) on regular basis at the district level.
- 3.2 To organize public debates and consultations on rural sanitation at district level in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 3.3 To influence the District governments in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah to allocate funds for public sanitation

Objective No. 4: Encourage demand driven, sustainable & traditional solutions, and informed choices by recognizing the importance of working from the bottom up with practitioners and communities.

Activities:

- 4.1 Undertake baseline of sanitation practices in the communities where OGB and partners are working. (Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah)
- 4.2 Design and promote sustainable and traditional latrine structures in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 4.3 Increase demand among the partner communities for sanitation facilities in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah.
- 4.4 Translation of National Sanitation Strategy in Urdu and its dissemination at gross root level in Sindh and Punjab provinces.
- 4.5 Holding seminars around the need for formulation of Sanitation Strategy at the district level. (Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah)
- 4.6 Training of 50 local masons (men and women) for VIP (single and twin pit) latrines in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 4.7 Providing material to community for constructing 70 low cost latrines in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah as a pilot to raise the demand among the community.

Objective No. 5: Secure increased financing to jump-start and sustain progress via commitments from national budgets and development partner allocations.

Activities:

- 5.1 Document fund allocation by Federal, provincial and district governments for sanitation over the last 10 years. The key is to see how much funds have been allocated per person per year? Then prepare a poster for the funding and demand more funding for sanitation work in Pakistan.
- 5.2 Facilitate Community Citizen Boards (CCBs) and local partners in influencing district governments of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah to include construction of latrines and other sanitation infrastructure in CCB funding grid
- 5.3 To encourage CCBs to prepare annual sanitation and water budgets and submit proposal in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 5.4 To influence CCBs to introduce fund collection/cost recovery system for sanitation and water community based facilities in district Badin

Objective No. 6: Develop and strengthen institutional and human capacity via recognition at all levels that progress in sanitation toward the MDGs involves interlinked programmes in hygiene, household and school facilities (such as toilets and washing facilities), and the collection, treatment and safe reuse or disposal of wastewater and human excreta. Community mobilization, the recognition of women's key role and stake, along with an appropriate mix of "software" and "hardware" interventions are essential.

Activities:

- 6.1 Piloting sanitation and water facilities in formal girls schools in the districts where OGB is working in districts of Badin, Rajanpur, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Jhang, Muzafargarh and Layyah
- 6.2 Providing latrines with septic tanks in 12 Schools of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 6.3 To engage school children, parents and teachers in hygiene promotion through different participatory methods in Rajanpur, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Jhang, Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.
- 6.4 Providing technical support for designing small-scale wastewater treatment to TMAs where OGB and its partners are working in Badin district.
- 6.5 To provide technical assistance to District governments of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah to introduce easy waste collection and safe disposal.

Objective No. 7: Enhance the sustainability and therefore the effectiveness of available sanitation solutions, to enhance health impacts, social and cultural acceptance, technological and institutional appropriateness, and the protection of the environment and natural resources.

Activities:

- 7.1 Increase awareness among the local communities in Badin, Rajanpur, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Jhang, Muzafargarh and Layyah, especially targeting women and children, regarding proper use of latrines.
- 7.2 Providing technical assistance to partners Laar Humanitarian and Development Programme (LHDP), Help Foundation, Idaraee Taleem Agahee (ITA) and Doaba Foundation to design low cost but technically sound latrines
- 7.3 Facilitating communities of Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah for introducing community based waste management.
- 7.4 Formulation of sanitation groups of women for hand-washing and safe disposal of children faeces in Badin, Muzafargarh and Layyah districts.

Objective No. 8: Promote and capture learning to enhance the evidence base and knowledge on sanitation, which will greatly contribute to the advocacy and increase investments in the sector.

Activities:

- 8.1 Publication of lesson learned/best practice documents under Sanitation work. The dissemination will be all around the country.
- 8.2 Publication of public messages regarding sanitation for mass awareness and local media campaign in Badin, Thatta, Muzafargarh and Layyah.
- 8.3 Arranging exchange visits of communities (men and women) to learn from each-others experiences. This will be done in Badin, Thatta, Muzafargarh and Layyah
- 8.4 Recognizing best practices of sanitation through incentives such as giving SHIELDS and certificates to TMAs, CCBs and others.

4.0 Work Plan

Please see Annex A for work plan.

5.0 Focal Person in OGB for IYS work**Mohammad Ali Shaikh**

Public Health Engineer

OXFAM GB Islamabad

Mobile: +92-300-8568819

Tele: +92-51-2653341-2 Ext: 271

mshaikh@oxfam.org.uk