Safe Water and Sanitation in Every Home

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: In Pakistan, two-thirds of the population lacks access to potable water and nearly half does not have access to basic sanitation. The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) is implementing a community-managed model to deliver sustainable, clean and safely managed water and sanitation services in homes in some of the most remote, mountain areas of the country.

PAKISTAN

- Lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services has a profound impact on health and quality of life. One in five people in Pakistan suffer from waterborne disease or illness and diarrhoea is the leading cause of infant and child mortality. In mountain areas in particular, many women and children, the traditional “water haulers”, have to travel up to three kilometres over dangerous terrain in harsh conditions to collect water often from open, contaminated channels and streams.

- Based on a research-driven approach, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat developed the Water and Sanitation Extension Programme with a vision to provide sustainable access to water through an integrated package of interventions covering infrastructure to improve supply and behaviour change to promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices. The model ensures sustainable access to clean water and sanitation services through a participatory, community-managed model.

- We construct climate-resilient water supply systems informed by Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessments for safer site selection and design. Our technical experts and engineers design the systems and are specialised in solutions to provide reliable access to services in remote mountain areas with harsh winters.

- Our trained social mobilisers promote context-specific and gender-inclusive health and hygiene awareness campaigns based on Knowledge, Awareness and Practice surveys.

- Community engagement and ownership is central to our approach. We work with communities to establish Water and Sanitation Committees and Operations and Maintenance Funds to ensure operational and financial sustainability through a community-based financing and maintenance mechanism.

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FACTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 500,000 people in nearly 800 settlements provided access to clean drinking water in their homes

67% of households report increased school attendance of their children due to reduction in diarrhoea

More than 234,000 people sensitised on improved hygiene practices

29,000 sanitation units constructed

About AKAH

The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat’s (AKAH) goal is that people live in safe, sustainable and resilient habitats with the opportunity to thrive, whether in a remote mountain village, a town, or a densely populated urban centre. It works with communities to help them prepare for and respond to natural disasters and the effects of climate change. AKAH also works to expand access to services and opportunity for people to improve their life. AKAH helps communities prepare for the worst; provides immediate relief after disaster strikes; and helps build back better – and greener – while planning for a better future. Established in 2015, AKAH combines several agencies and programmes of the AKDN that had been working on housing, habitat, and disaster preparedness and relief since the 1990s in South and Central Asia.

For more information

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