

## Water and Health: Technological support to Desert Communities in Tharparkar, Pakistan Training of Trainers (TOT) on Traditional Soap Making

WACREP Activity No: 1.3.1B

Tharparkar desert in Sindh is the largest desert of Pakistan and the eighteenth largest in the world with an area of 22,000 square kilometers and population of 1.5 million. Though the soil in Tharparkar desert is highly fertile, the crop production largely depends on precipitation during summer (from mid-June to mid-August). Drought conditions for the last ten years<sup>1</sup> triggered mass migration of peasants - more than 50 per cent of its overall population have migrated to irrigated lands in search for livelihoods, mostly for casual labour. During droughts it becomes harder for country-dwellers to find drinking water, leave alone water for irrigation. Children's education has been neglected and the school dropout rates increased due to financial instability of the community which led to reduction in literacy rate of the overall population. The given surroundings in Tharparkar have worsens the hygienic condition of the community, the down trodden community cannot afford to buy soap to maintain hygiene and also communities of far flung areas do not have access to local markets.

### Training of Trainers programme



Formulation of Tharparkar Area Water Partnership

Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) initiated the concept of 'traditional home-made soap making' among the community to promote concept of hygiene awareness. To begin with, PWP formulated Tharparkar Area Water Partnership (AWP) and conducted a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes with the support of Tharparkar AWP. The trainings demonstrated the technologies of soap making to focal persons whom would further replicate the same at different areas of Tharparkar District. The effort is being supported by the community leaders of Tharparkar. At present PWP conducted ToTs in Basti Barach and Basti Subaro villages covering more than 2,500 population, besides 300 pieces of PWP made soap distributed among the community.

<sup>1</sup> A report published by the Sindh Relief Department in 2012 mentioned that the area of Tharparkar had been continuously declared as drought calamity hit area in 1968, 1978, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012 and recent drought of 2014.



Demonstration of soap making techniques by Community Leader (Punho) and PWP Officials

**Ingredients:**

- Fine Flour 1kg
- Caustic Soda 0.3kg
- Castor Oil 0.5l
- Industrial Soda 0.5kg
- Dettol liquid or rose extracts 2 tablespoons
- Water 1.0l

**Method:** Mix flour, industrial soda with water. Then add 0.5l castor oil into the mixture. Add two table spoons of Dettol liquid or rose extract to the mixture while gradually adding and mixing caustic soda. Heat it on low flame and stir until the mixture becomes thick. Pour it into a mould with a desired size and a shape. Dry for 7 days for better results.



Distribution of Soap at Basti Barach

**Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP)** is an innovative initiative of Global Water Partnership (GWP) South Asia devised to improve the climate resilience of South Asian countries to withstand the impact of climate change. More than 40 climate resilience interventions were undertaken in the first phase of WACREP (October 2013 to March 2015).

*This is a Success Story documented by Pakistan Water Partnership.*

**For further information:**

**Mr Sardar Muhammad Tariq**

Executive Director/CEO, Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP), 710, Street 22, 1-8/2, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Tel: (+92) 51 486 0895 Fax: (+92) 51 486 0896 E-mail: [smtariq@pwp.org.pk](mailto:smtariq@pwp.org.pk), Website: [www.pwp.org.pk](http://www.pwp.org.pk)

Regional Coordinator, GWP - South Asia Regional Office (GWP-SAS)  
 C/o International Water Management Institute (IWMI)  
 127 Sunil Mawatha, Pelawatte, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka  
 Tel: +94 11 2880000 | Fax: +94 11 2786854