New World: Inclusive Sustainable Human Development Initiatives

Building resilient and healthy communities- ‘Zindagi’

Zindagi means Life. The installation of solar water filtration plants in five polio high risk areas was initiated by Rotary, funded by Coca-Cola Pakistan through their implementing partner - UNDP. Under the Zindagi project (3rd Generation), Rotary’s Pakistan National PolioPlus Charitable Trust have installed the seven solar water filtration plants in urban slums; where poor sanitation and hygiene conditions persist; there is no formal health care service available and there is a lack of potable drinking water. Many of the water borne communicable diseases are transmitted through unclean and contaminated water, making children and adults equally vulnerable to disease that may be life threatening and fatal. As part of our mission to interrupt the transmission of polio virus, Rotary targeted high risk Union Councils/Districts known to be reservoirs of the polio virus.

Polio eradication has highest priority in the country and the water filtration plants has direct impact on the health and hygiene conditions of the people especially children living in these areas.

QUICK FACTS

Duration: 2016-2019
Implementing partners: UNDP, Pakistan National PolioPlus Charitable Trust
Funding partner: Coca Cola & Global Water Challenge
Location: Installation of 5 Solar Water Filtration Plants in High Risk UCs of Karachi and Punjab
Total Budget(2018-2019): USD 80,000
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in urban slums that become targets of communal diseases caused by unsafe drinking water.

Hence, the Zindagi project provides water filtration plants in high risk areas mainly to gain community confidence and access to mothers for vaccination of children under five years of age.

**Objectives**

1. To provide sustainable access to safe water and/or sanitation services in communities in more than 10 countries;
2. To apply community-based integrated active healthy living and disease prevention approaches to enhancing wellness of societies;
3. To empower women and youth, improve education and generate job opportunities to build resilient communities.

**Target Population**

The community confidence was instrumental. A number of community meetings were held with local stakeholders to gain community confidence and to understand the optimum utilization of safe drinking water to improve health and hygiene condition of the area. This has provided easy accessibility to these cultural bonded communities who usually refuse any intervention within their communities.

5 solar water plants were installed under 3rd Generation Zindagi project in 2018 at following locations

1) Jaranwala, Punjab
2) Muzaffargarh, Punjab
3) Renala Khurd, Punjab
4) Shoro Goth, Karachi
5) Baldia Town, Karachi

All 5 Solar Powered Water Filtration Plants have been handed over to the community. Key handing over ceremony has been arranged at all locations to officially handover the system to the community so they can run the system in a sustainable way. Written agreements have been signed by the community leaders earlier so they can know the functions and responsibilities to run the filtration plant.

**Expected results**

**Outputs:**

1. Improved access to safe drinking water and improved health conditions of the selected communities
2. Improved capacity of community members in the area of maintenance and operations of solar water filtration plants
3. Increased awareness of community about the need to use safe drinking water and its impact on human’s health

**Main achievements**

Hitherto, the achievements of the project include

- The number of polio refusals decreased by 95% and 100% routine immunization coverage is provided in project areas.
- Water borne diseases reduced to 75%. Health & Sanitation of 12,000 HH will be improved.
- Infant life expectancy improved by 85%. Reduction of 35% expenditure incurred over children treatment.

The installations of Solar Water Filtration Plants are benefiting around 83400 people in 5 union councils. The work load of 2700 women has been reduced, 45,000 children are secured against water borne diseases, Health Awareness given to 2700 women and 1000 men through Health Awareness Workshops and network of Community Based Vaccinators (CBVs) of WHO. The availability of safe drinking water near their residences decreased the work load of the local women and more time is available for other gainful activities which ultimately enhance Women empowerment in the area especially in decision making process. Total 50 stake holders have been involved through 18 public sector meetings. The number of polio refusals decreased by 95% and 100% routine immunization coverage is provided in project areas.

**What’s next?**

After the completion of 3rd Generation Zindagi project of installation of 05 Solar Water Filtration Plants at 5 locations, it would be imperative to continue liaison with local stakeholders, O&M personnel for monitoring of the plants and ensure service delivery for the women and children living in Polio High Risk areas.

Local Medical Practitioners are key persons to provide information on decrease in water borne diseases in the area and will be contacted on regular basis to assess the project impact in subsequent years.