



IRC Pakistan

Water for Women: Pakistan

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Pakistan through Leveraging Inclusive WASH for Empowerment (LIFE)

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential to health and wellbeing.

Water for Women is partnering with International Rescue Committee (IRC) to implement the *LIFE* project to reach out to an estimated 169,000 people in 75 villages across three districts (Peshawar, Swat and Buner) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan.

Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women. Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in WASH.

Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.

Partnering with

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

Sanitation

Water

Hygiene

Benefitting an estimated **169,000** people



Pakistan

- Regions of operation
 - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



IRC Pakistan

Leveraging Inclusive WASH for Empowerment (LIFE)

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all.

Pakistan faces several challenges when it comes to water safety, sanitation and hygiene practices:

- 16 million (7.5%) people in Pakistan have no choice but to collect water from unsafe sources;
- Nearly 40 million (19%) practice open defecation, with the vast majority of this figure (37 million) in rural areas;
- Pakistan has 3.7% of the world's children aged 0-5, but accounts for 11% of the under 5 mortality rate owing to diarrhoea and dysentery.

These challenges are particularly acute in rural and remote areas of the country.

The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

LIFE will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

The key objectives of this project are to deliver:

1. Inclusive and sustainable WASH Services
2. Improved inclusive WASH governance systems
3. Inclusive decision making around WASH

"LIFE will strengthen both the supply and demand sides of the WASH sector in Pakistan. The strategy is designed to address identified socio-cultural barriers that hinder access of the most marginalised groups to WASH services (particularly women, girls, people with disabilities, minorities and the transgender community)."

- Adnan Bin Junaid, Country Director, International Rescue Committee (IRC) - Pakistan Program

LIFE will employ a combination of approaches designed to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of inclusive WASH delivery:

- An intergenerational dialogue approach will be used to foster

cross-generation sharing and learning in a context where age hierarchy is at play.

- A rights-based approach will be followed with an understanding of how IRC, along with implementing partners, can bring systemic change to households, communities and institutions in realising the rights of vulnerable groups.
- Vocational and life skill building sessions will serve as a culturally accepted entry point, increasing participation of such vulnerable groups as girls and women.

The LIFE project will also aim to provide:

- Vocational/life skills training to 2,000 women and girls for their empowerment;
- Technical advice and capacity building to 1,500 government representatives for improved WASH governance.

Australia understands that equitable WASH access is crucial in developing countries. Water for Women and our partners will provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery in Pakistan, and contribute to global WASH evidence and research.



The Australian aid program is investing in Pakistan over a five-year period with LIFE. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with International Rescue Committee and other partners: Environmental Protection Society and Integrated Regional Support Program in Pakistan.

