Fast Facts

Country: Pakistan
Duration: August 2005 to July 2008
Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP
Other Implementing Partners: Lachi Poverty Reduction Project
Budget: $514,019
Key Words: Access to water; environmental insecurity; rural communities

BACKGROUND

At the time of this project, Pakistan faced a multi-pronged water crisis. While dry-land areas suffered from extreme water scarcity that resulted in dwindling groundwater supplies, crop failure, death of livestock and drought-induced migration, other areas wasted much water due to inefficient irrigation policies. In addition, many areas were affected by waterlogging of the soil and salinization of the groundwater that had detrimental effects on agricultural production and caused further environmental degradation. In the mountainous Kohat District, located in one of the most drought-prone and poorest areas in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, low levels of rainfall coupled with shortage of water for irrigation threatened the survival of people and livestock and put increased burden on women to collect water for their households. In view of these challenges, improved management and conservation of water emerged as a crucial component to solve the water crisis in Kohat.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to address the water crisis in Kohat District in the Northwest Frontier Province through community involvement in the management and conservation of water. Consequently, the project engaged with the local communities in order to (i) develop sustainable water conservation systems for the efficient use of water; (ii) improve irrigation schemes and increase the availability of water for livestock; and (iii) rehabilitate dry-land ecosystems to minimise drought-induced migration.

BENEFICIARIES

In total, 1,046 households increased their access to water sources through the installation of rainwater reservoirs, water storage tanks, irrigation channels, tube wells and hand pumps. Women in the participating communities benefited from the construction of nearby water sources and their travel time to collect water was reduced from 2.8 to 0.8 hours per day on average. Moreover, the construction of water reservoirs increased the access to water and had positive effects on the productivity and value of livestock and crops.