

# Transforming Gender Roles in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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PAKISTAN



# Leveraging Inclusive WASH For Empowerment - LIFE

## Introduction

### Goal

Gender equitable and socially inclusive WASH services for improved health conditions of marginalized groups.

### Outcomes

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1. Expanded inclusive and sustainable WASH services

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2. Improved inclusive WASH governance systems

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3. Increased women's, girls', and other marginalized groups decision making around WASH

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4. Knowledge Management and Learning



# Project Snapshot



168,750 clients



73 villages



3 target districts  
(Peshawar, Buner, Swat  
in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



Working in the  
communities since





# Inclusive WASH Jirgas (IWJ)

An entry point  
for LIFE

Inclusive WASH  
platform for  
women of  
different ages,  
abilities, and  
backgrounds

An  
opportunity  
for women  
to come  
together and  
discuss their  
WASH issues

Making  
women  
valuable  
mobilizers  
and leaders  
in their  
communities

## Men in Buner

“No, never. It’s  
against our culture,  
norms, and values.  
Women are not  
involved in meetings  
or initiatives or  
decision making.”





# Addressing GEDSI issues

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## Ensuring GEDSI in LIFE Project

On-boarding not only a transgender person, but also Women staff with Disabilities and unique potentials. Transforming IRCs history and culture

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Adopting locally acceptable approach to work in conservative societies like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Utilizing women potentials, influential, religious and opinion leaders

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Working with gender minorities being the most vulnerable group

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# Role of Women IWJs in changing gender stereotypes

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Eliminating taboos associated with Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

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Women Empowerment through entrepreneurship with increased control over resources and participation in HH level decision making

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Gender Minorities have been safeguarded through WASH entrepreneurs

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Visiting surrounding villagers to influence other women to change hygiene and defecation practices

## Role of IWJs (Contd.)

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Constructions of latrines and water sources on self-help basis

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Increased women political participation and leadership  
e.g. 10 women leaders contested in local bodies  
election held in 2022

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Building effective linkages with service providers  
through unprecedented Exposure visits of more than  
50 women leaders



# Meeting of Women IWJ

IWJ members  
during a  
Leadership  
session



# IWJ members of Dab Naguman during a session



Women of Dab Naguman Village visited a neighboring village called Changarabad and mobilized them to construct latrines.



Sameena is the President of her village Jalabela Bala in Peshawar.

She led the IWJ from the front turning Jalabela Bala into a model WASH village



*“For the first time a women’s Jirga was being formed and a young girl was being selected as its president. I had to lead all the women most of whom were my seniors in age. Building consensus among them was not going to be easy, but I remained optimistic and with my community’s support I managed to carry out this job well.”*



# Rubina Sher Mohammad was affected by polio when she was a little girl



*“The contribution of this Project in my life is that the membership of IWJ has given me plenty of self-confidence. I can sit down among few people and speak up with assurance for my rights and the rights of other persons with disabilities.”*

**“I believe that no matter how bad things get, as long as we are alive, we should keep going on with life and take responsibility for the solutions of our problems.”**

Rubina Sher Mohammad (woman with disability and member of IWJ)

**“It has become easier for me to move around and manage my expenses better and independently. With the help of the entrepreneurship kit and training, I earn adequate to meet my medical expenses and contribute to my family income. I am also dealing well with my mental health challenges.”**

Palwasha (Client)



**“I am thankful to IRC and all the villagers for their support and trust. We have started the journey, but it will not stop here. I have already started promoting MHM agenda at village level and our journey will continue till we have achieved our objective of dignified life for all.”**

Komariya (members of the Inclusive WASH Jirga’s )

Thank You!

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Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate

