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WASH CLIMATE NEXUS

WASHNet – A Provincial WASH Coordination Platform



Message from the Chief of International Development Section, P&DD



WASHNet marks a significant step toward strengthening coordination and capacity across the WASH sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As the implementing partner, IDS is

WASHNet is a formal, inclusive, and government-Led coordination forum for the WASH Sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It has been established to bring together government departments, development partners, and other stakeholders under a single collaborative platform. WASHNet is hosted by the Planning and Development Department and supported by UNICEF. WASHNet aims to address the

fragmentation in the sector by improving the sector coordination, transparency, and collective decision-making

committed to ensuring that this platform serves as an effective space for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation. We appreciate the leadership of ACS and the support of UNICEF in making this initiative possible. We look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to drive sustainable and climate-resilient improvements in WASH services across the province.

Dr. Ehtisham ul Haq , Chief IDS

CORE OBJECTIVES

Establish

Establish a one-stop coordination platform for all WASH stakeholders in KP



Strengthen

Strengthen alignment with provincial development priorities and SDG 6



Promote

Collaboration, learning, evidence-based planning and resource allocation



Chief of Climate, Environment and WASH UNICEF Pakistan
Cindy Kushner during a visit to the WASHNet secretariate



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WASHNet Conducts Thematic Workshop on Methane Emissions from KP's Sanitation Sector



UNICEF WASH Specialist Mr Farooq Abbasi addressing the attendees of the meeting

On 4 February 2026, UNICEF, WASHNet, and the Planning & Development Department (P&DD), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, jointly organized a Validation Workshop on Methane Emissions from the Sewerage and Non-Sewerage Sanitation Sector at Serena Hotel, Peshawar.

The workshop brought together key provincial and federal stakeholders to review findings from the baseline study on greenhouse gas emissions in KP's sanitation sector and validate the province's first IPCC-compliant Tier-II emissions inventory.

Baseline study for GHG emission from sewerage and non-sewerage sanitation sector



KEY DISCUSSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Safely Managed Sanitation (SMS) challenges in KP
- Institutional coordination within the sanitation sector
- Opportunities for low-carbon sanitation technologies
- Access to international climate and carbon finance

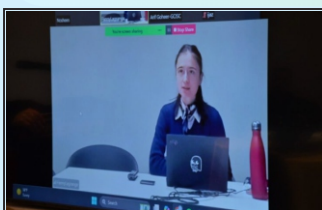
WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen coordination between Climate Action Board (CAB) and GCISC
- Develop climate financing proposals with UNICEF support
- Explore carbon market opportunities (Article 6.2 credits)



Assistant Chief IDS formally concluding the session

Mr. Hamza Abbas, Assistant Chief IDS, P&DD, concluded the workshop by appreciating the contributions of participating institutions and highlighting the importance of continued collaboration to advance low-carbon sanitation solutions and climate-informed planning in KP.





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WASHFIT – Improving WASH services in healthcare facilities



The Water and Sanitation in Health Facility Improvement Tool (**WASHFIT**) is a globally recognized approach used to assess, plan, and improve WASH services in healthcare facilities. In 2023, **UNICEF** introduced WASHFIT in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through pilot implementation in **DHQ Swabi, DHQ Charsadda** and **Maulvi Gee Hospital, Peshawar**

Hospital staff were trained, facility assessments were conducted, and improvement plans were developed, leading to targeted upgrades in WASH services.

EXPANDING THE APPROACH

With additional funding in 2025, **UNICEF** partnered with DOH to scale the WASHFIT approach to **10+** healthcare facilities in District **Charsadda**. Facilities were selected based on the presence of:

- **Primary Care Management Committees**
- **Hospital Management Committees**

These committees, led by facility in-charges and comprising community and staff members, are responsible for facility management, maintenance, and utilization of available funds.

Research by ThinkWell Institute (Aug 2024) revealed that out of PKR 1.9 billion allocated to PCMCs, only PKR 700 million utilized (<50%). This gap highlights the need for **capacity development, financial management training, understanding of roles and responsibilities**

To address these gaps:

- **Manuals developed based on PCMC/HMC guidelines**
- **Capacity-building sessions were conducted**
- **10 healthcare facilities in Charsadda were supported**



KEY LEARNING FROM THE PILOT

A major takeaway was that sustainable improvements require full institutionalization of the WASHFIT cycle within department of Health, including:



Training and capacity building



Facility assessments



Data management



Implementation and monitoring

Consultative Workshop on Standardizing Water Distribution Network Design in KP



TOWARDS STANDARDIZED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN KP

A consultative workshop on Water Distribution Network Design was held on 3rd February 2026 at NIUIP, UET Peshawar, bringing together sector professionals, engineers, and planners to critically review existing practices in the planning and design of water supply systems.

Objectives

REVIEW

Critically review existing practices in water supply system planning and design

EXAMINE

Examine key technical aspects including demand, storage, pumping and metering

HIGHLIGHT

Highlight variations in current practices and the need for standardized guidelines.

RECOMMEND

Development of provincial design criteria for water, sanitation, and stormwater infrastructure

The discussions covered key aspects such as demand assessment, storage requirements, pumping strategies, metering, and hydraulic design principles, with particular attention to prevailing assumptions related to population growth, non-revenue water, and service delivery standards.



CONCLUSION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The workshop successfully brought together experts from across the sector to identify gaps and variations in current water distribution practices. It reinforced the urgent need for a formalized, province-wide design framework for WASH infrastructure. While no single set of design criteria was finalized, participants agreed on the value of a detailed review of methodologies and the collaborative development of standardized guidelines. This workshop laid the foundation for more coordinated, efficient, and resilient water, sanitation, and stormwater planning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.





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Water and Gender – Where Water Flows, Equality Grows

WASHNet observes
World Water Day



UNICEF, in collaboration with the Local government department, organized a World Water Day event under the theme “Water and Gender: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows.” The event was held at the Local Governance School and brought together key stakeholders from government, development partners, and civil society to highlight the critical link between water access, gender equality, and community well-being.



What We Learned

Shafi Ullah Jan, Chief Guest

The Honourable Chief Guest, Shafi Ullah Jan emphasized that while water security remains a major challenge, equal attention must be given to ensuring safe drinking water and maintaining proper sanitation systems.

Ms. Amina Durrani, KPCSW

Ms Amina Durrani emphasised that limited access to clean water places a heavy burden on women and girls, undermining their health restricting education and reducing opportunities for community development.

Dr Wassaf Syed, UNICEF

The event concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Wassaf Syed from UNICEF, who stressed the urgent need for the development of a comprehensive water drinking policy and sanitation policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The event served as an important platform for dialogue, awareness, and collaboration, reinforcing the collective commitment towards achieving water security, gender equality, and improved sanitation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The participants were reminded of the importance of not only safe water, but also its security and safe access. The following was discussed thoroughly in the event by presenters as well as through an interactive Q/A session:

- How lack of safe drinking water additionally affects women differently from men
- Where does the KP drinking water policy stands in terms of its approval
- How can WASH sector partners enhance their coordination



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Bangladesh-KP Knowledge Exchange on Safely Managed Sanitation and CWIS



LEARNING FROM BANGLADESH

The INT-BUET team shared Bangladesh's successful implementation of **Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS)** across multiple cities. The approach focuses on the entire sanitation service chain:

Transportation **Containment** **Emptying** **Treatment** **Safe Disposal & Reuse**

This model has significantly improved urban sanitation outcomes through strong institutions, technical capacity, and inclusive planning.

On 3rd March, the **Public Health Engineering Department** KP held a high-level panel discussion with experts from International Training Network Centre of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, and key development partners. The session marked an important step toward addressing the risks of unsafe sanitation and advancing sustainable solutions in KP.



A NEW DIRECTION FOR KP - SAFELY MANAGED SANITATION UNITS

Building on these insights, the Government of KP, with support from **UNICEF**, is conceptualizing a Safely Managed Sanitation Unit within PHED. Proposed Functions of the Sanitation Unit are set to be the following:

-  Institutionalize safely managed sanitation across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
-  Strengthen technical and managerial capacity of the PHED
-  Develop regulatory and monitoring frameworks
-  Pilot CWIS models in selected cities

Once formally approved, the Sanitation Unit will enable PHED to address sanitation challenges more systematically, shifting from infrastructure provision toward sustainable service delivery while improving coordination among government departments and stakeholders. In the next phase, the Provincial Government, with support from development partners, will mobilize financial and technical resources to scale up CWIS across KP, contributing to SDG 6.2 and ensuring equitable access to sanitation and hygiene, especially for vulnerable populations.





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Visit of UNICEF Chief of WASH & CEE to Strengthen WASH Coordination in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



On 15 April 2026, Ms. Cindy Kushner, Chief of WASH & Climate, Environment and Energy (CEE), UNICEF Pakistan, visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and held a series of high-level meetings with key government stakeholders and the WASHNet team at the Planning & Development Department.



In meetings with the Planning & Development Department (P&DD), including the International Development Section, discussions highlighted opportunities to strengthen overall sector coordination through platforms such as WASHNet, while also aligning provincial priorities with development partner support.



Discussions with the Local Government Department focused on the progress and way forward regarding proposed amendments to the KP Water Act, along with strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks to support improved WASH service delivery across urban and local governance systems.



Engagement with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) emphasized the need to enhance technical and institutional coordination within the sector. UNICEF's interventions with PHED were reviewed and new areas of engagement were discussed.



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WASHNet brings Academia, Government, and Industry partners together to strengthen research in WASH



On April 28, 2026, WASHNet held a workshop in the Planning and Development Department on using academic research for practical solutions. Representatives from major universities, government departments, and development partners participated to strengthen collaboration and promote evidence-based approaches in the sector.

Participants discussed institutional and implementation challenges, especially in coordination with government departments. They shared useful suggestions to improve collaboration, align research with sector needs, and develop practical solutions. The discussion highlighted the key role of platforms like WASHNet in bringing stakeholders together for better, evidence-based outcomes.



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Gaps in coordination between academia, industry, and government were identified in open discussions
- 2 Institutions presented their ongoing, completed, and proposed research projects in WASH
- 3 Participants were shown priority research topics listed on the WASHNet website, were invited to propose theirs

Success Story: WSSC Swat Explores Early Warning Solutions

Following the thematic workshop, an early success has already emerged. The CEO of WSSC Swat initiated engagement with WASHNet to explore collaboration with the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI).

The proposed partnership focuses on developing an early warning system, inspired by a solution presented by GIKI during the workshop. This marks a strong step from discussion to practical action, demonstrating how the platform is enabling real connections between service providers and academia.

