Newsletter Issue 5

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WASH CLIMATE NEXUS

WASHNet – A Provincial WASH Coordination Platform



Mr. Shahzad Mehboob, Chief Economist, Planning & Development Department

Message from the Chief Economist, Planning & Development Department

Water, sanitation and climate resilience are essential to the sustainable development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The province faces growing challenges from water scarcity, inadequate sanitation services and climate change, requiring coordinated planning, sustainable investment and effective policy reforms.

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, through the Planning & Development Department and relevant sectoral departments, is pursuing various initiatives to strengthen the WASH sector, including water and sanitation policy reforms, improved service delivery standards, Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs), and the development of a long-term, costed WASH sector plan. These efforts aim to improve coordination, support evidence-based planning and promote climate-resilient services.

WASHNet, with support from UNICEF, provides a government-led platform for collaboration among departments and development partners, promoting knowledge sharing, harmonized interventions and accountability. Through collective commitment and coordinated action, we can advance equitable access to safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation and sustainable, climate-resilient WASH services for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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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Badri Pond Restoration at Burzawali Village, D.I Khan

WWF-LED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN D.I KHAN

Restoration has begun at Badri Pond in Burzawali Village, Dera Ismail Khan, as part of Recharge Pakistan, a climate-resilience initiative implemented by WWF-Pakistan. The intervention is designed to restore natural water flows, strengthen water storage and support groundwater recharge through Nature-based Solutions.

Through the restoration of flow paths, pond desilting and embankment strengthening, the intervention aims to improve local water security while helping communities adapt to increasing climate and water-related risks.





RESTORING WATER FLOWS

Restoration of natural 415-meter water-flow paths will help reconnect the pond with its surrounding landscape and improve the movement of water into the restored area.

STRENGTHENING STORAGE

The intervention includes desilting one hectare of pond area and reinforcing 211 metres of embankment, increasing the pond's water-holding capacity by approximately 20,000 m^3.

BENEFITING COMMUNITIES

The restoration is expected to benefit approximately 2,957 households by supporting local water security and strengthening resilience to climate-related risks.



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Youth4Climate: Voices from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, COP-in-My-City provides a platform for young people to engage with climate policy and contribute to Pakistan's climate priorities. As the country prepares for COP31, the initiative aims to strengthen youth leadership, promote climate literacy and equip emerging leaders to contribute to climate dialogues and solutions.



EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

CECOS University of IT and Emerging Sciences hosted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Conclave of COP-in-My-City 2026 on 1 October 2026 in Peshawar. The event brought together young people, climate advocates, educators and stakeholders to discuss climate change, sustainability, adaptation and resilience, highlighting the role of youth in addressing local and global environmental challenges.





By promoting sustainable practices and locally driven solutions, young people can help communities prepare for climate-related risks, protect natural resources and strengthen long-term resilience.

Climate literacy equips young people with the knowledge to understand climate change, its impacts and the solutions needed to protect communities and ecosystems. It helps turn awareness into informed decisions and meaningful action.

The KP Conclave formed part of this wider national effort, connecting global climate discussions with the realities facing local communities. Through youth engagement and collaborative dialogue, the initiative seeks to encourage meaningful participation in climate action and build a generation of informed advocates for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.











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KP Delegation Explores Innovative Financing and Climate Resilience in Karachi



Learning from Sindh's Experience

From 17–20 September 2026, the Planning and Development Department (P&DD), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted an exposure visit to Karachi.

The delegation included representatives from P&DD, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), the Local Government, Elections & Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD), and UNICEF. The visit focused on learning from established financing and institutional models that could support sustainable infrastructure and climate action in KP.

ACTIVITY 1 EXPLORING SINDH'S PPP FRAMEWORK

LEARNING FROM ESTABLISHED MODELS FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

The delegation met with Sindh's PPP Unit on 18 September to explore its institutional framework, financing mechanisms and riverine forestation projects. Discussions focused on adapting Sindh's project structuring and private investment approaches to support infrastructure and climate initiatives in KP.

ACTIVITY 2 KP SIGNS MOU WITH INFRAZAMIN

EXPLORING CREDIT GUARANTEES AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR KP'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



FINANCING PARTNERSHIP

On 18 September, P&DD KP's PPP Support Section signed an MoU with InfraZamin Pakistan to explore credit enhancement, project development and capacity building. The partnership could help with improving financing opportunities for eligible projects in water supply, sanitation, renewable energy and other infrastructure sectors.

ACTIVITY 3 UNDERSTANDING SINDH'S FOREST CARBON INITIATIVES

EXPLORING CARBON-CREDIT FINANCING AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESTORATION.



CARBON MARKET LEARNING

The delegation met with Sindh's Forest & Wildlife Department on 19 September to learn about mangrove and riverine forest restoration through PPPs. Discussions covered carbon-credit generation, its verification, revenue sharing and community participation, offering useful insights for KP's emerging forest carbon initiatives.

ACTIVITY 4 VISITING DELTA BLUE CARBON PROJECT

OBSERVING MANGROVE RESTORATION & COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE ACTION



FIELD EXPOSURE

The delegation visited the Delta Blue Carbon mangrove restoration areas in the Indus Delta to observe conservation practices, carbon monitoring and community engagement. The Visit demo--nstrated how carbon financing can support environmental restoration while creating livelihood opportunities for local communities.

AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

- **Institutional Cooperation**
- **Innovative Financing**
- **Carbon Markets**
- **Community Resilience**

WAY FORWARD FOR KP

Building on the visit, two concept notes covering PPP development and climate-related initiatives have been prepared, with UNICEF's support proposed for their advancement. Next steps include identifying bankable infrastructure projects, strengthening institutional partnerships and exploring innovative climate-financing mechanisms to support sustainable, climate-resilient development in KP.

Leadership That Drives Sanitation Progress

TEHSIL MUNICIPAL OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Mr. Gul Naib Khan

Tehsil Municipal Officer (TMO), TMA Haripur

Mr. Gul Naib Khan has demonstrated leadership in advancing sanitation upscaling in Haripur, supporting local government ownership, institutional coordination and community-level action.

Leadership in Action

Under his leadership, the SMU TMA Haripur has made significant progress in the sanitation upscaling initiative, contributing to the achievement of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 76 villages.



Examplary Leadership

Through his proactive leadership, Mr. Gul Naib Khan has helped strengthen coordination between the TMA, district administration, field teams and communities, enabling sanitation interventions to move from planning to measurable results. His approach demonstrates how committed local government leadership, backed by dedicated resources and community engagement, can accelerate sanitation transformation at scale.

The progress achieved in Haripur offers a valuable example of local government ownership and leadership in sanitation upscaling.



Open Defecation Free status achieved

Under the sanitation upscaling initiative, Haripur has achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 76 villages, reflecting progress towards safer sanitation practices and healthier communities.

Allocation to sanitation upscaling activities

TMA Haripur has allocated PKR 5 million for sanitation upscaling activities, demonstrating local government commitment to expanding sanitation efforts and supporting communities in need.



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Peshawar's Groundwater Crisis







Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop | 9 September 2026

A stakeholder workshop convened by the National Institute for Urban Infrastructure Planning (NIUIP), UNICEF and the Water and Sanitation Services Company Peshawar (WSSP) brought together government representatives, development partners, academics and private-sector stakeholders to present a study conducted on the growing pressure on Peshawar's groundwater resources.

EVIDENCE FOR BETTER WATER PLANNING

The technical study combined three technical approaches to assess groundwater conditions and inform future decisions: **3D Hydrogeological Modelling**, **Geophysical Surveys** and **Geospatial Analysis**

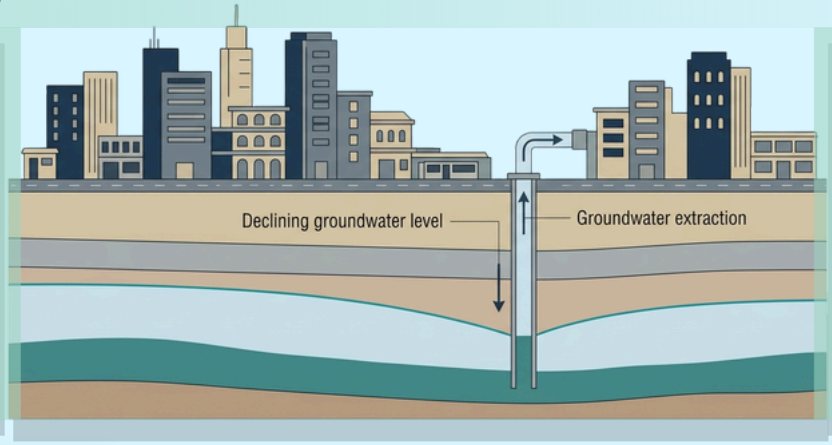
Sobering Findings

1.45 M/YEAR

Average reported water-table decline

3.58 M/YEAR

In some central urban zones

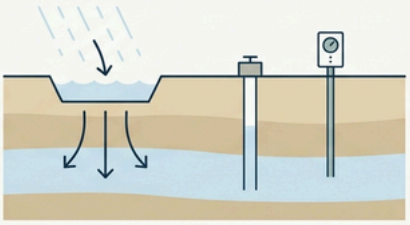


3 TIMES

Groundwater extraction relative to safe yield

182 MG/DAY

Projected Demand by 2045



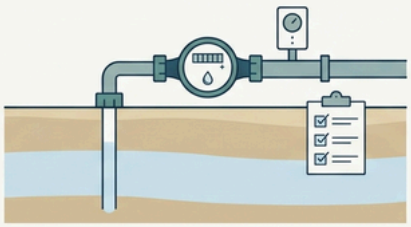
01 / STRENGTHEN WATER SUPPLY

- Artificial groundwater recharge
- Integration of surface-water sources
- Improved aquifer monitoring

Expert Recommendations

The workshop featured detailed presentations on the methodology, findings, and future work needed to scale similar studies across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Experts outlined a dual strategy moving forward.

Speakers emphasized the need to transition from sporadic monitoring to real-time observation systems and to reframe groundwater from a "free common property resource" to a "managed shared asset."



02 / MANAGE WATER DEMAND

- Volumetric water pricing
- Reduction of non-revenue water
- Licensing of groundwater abstraction

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LOCAL CLIMATE PLANS FOR BUNER & SHANGLA



Through the GCF-funded Integrated Climate Risk Management (ICRM) project, WFP is supporting efforts to strengthen climate resilience and promote locally informed adaptation planning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. By facilitating the development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans, the initiative aims to bring together government institutions, district administrations, and local communities to identify climate vulnerabilities and inform practical adaptation measures.

PLANNING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

WFP has initiated the development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans (LCCAPs) for Batara Union Council in Buner and Peer Khana Union Council in Shangla, with support from the Planning & Development Department.



01 – PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION



A technical working group was established with support from the Planning & Development Department, bringing together national and provincial stakeholders, including the Ministry of Climate Change, NAP team, PDMA, Irrigation Department, On-Farm Water Management Department, and Social Welfare Department. The group endorsed the overall LCCAP strategy and implementation approach, establishing a shared direction for local climate adaptation planning.

02 – DISTRICT-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT



Following the provincial consultation, district inception meetings and consultation workshops were conducted in Buner and Shangla. Representatives from Batara and Peer Khana Union Councils, district administrations, and relevant line departments participated in the discussions to initiate the planning process and bring local perspectives into the development of the adaptation plans.

03 – LOCALLY INFORMED PRIORITIES



The consultations provided a platform to identify local climate vulnerabilities, discuss practical adaptation measures, and gather community-level inputs. These discussions will help ensure that the Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans respond to the needs of affected communities while remaining aligned with district development priorities.

THE GOAL

Climate adaptation plans shaped by local realities and aligned with development priorities.

PLANNING LOCALLY. BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

Local adaption plans shaped by climate risks, community needs, and district develipment priorities

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Sustainable Actions for Ecosystems Restoration in Pakistan



New Climate Adaptation Funding to Strengthen Resilient WASH in KP

The SAFER Pakistan initiative brings together international partners, government institutions and provincial stakeholders to strengthen climate adaptation, protect vital water resources and advance sustainable, climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, with important opportunities to support vulnerable communities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and beyond.

A National Initiative for Local Resilience

Launched in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, provincial governments and development partners, SAFER Pakistan brings together institutions and communities to strengthen climate adaptation. The project's inception workshop was held in Islamabad on 7–8 September.



Protecting Water in a Changing Climate

Climate change places increasing pressure on drinking water availability and sanitation services. Nature-based solutions and sustainable groundwater management can help safeguard water resources and strengthen the resilience of water, sanitation and hygiene services, particularly for women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.



From Partnerships to Practical Action

UNICEF is supporting the Governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh to demonstrate approaches to climate-resilient WASH. The initiative brings together federal and provincial institutions, communities, ICIMOD and UN Women to advance locally relevant climate adaptation measures.

Healthier Ecosystems. More Secure Water. Resilient Communities.