

Drinking Water Supply Scheme (Hand Pump) to provide low cost facility to Rural Communities.

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This study documents how better the Community Organization “Rokhana Lar Manjar” used the social mobilization as an integral part for drinking water supply scheme project they implemented in their village. The Village Rokhana Lar Manjar is a small village locating at UC Nawagai in District Buner. The village consists of 51 households and population is about 459 individuals.

The LACI-project started social mobilization activities in November, 2011 and formed CO in the village. Formation of CO through a structured social mobilization approach was a new and unique experience for the people of the village and it helped them to consolidate their potentials and capabilities to strengthen their social bonds and work collectively. It also helped them to influence the private and government institutions to provide them assistance for improving their village condition.

The CO in the village identified and prioritized water supply scheme as their high priority issue. The CO passed a resolution and requested the EPS-LACI-project to provide a scheme to the CO for the construction of Hand Pumps. The LACI-project approved a scheme amount of PKR: 206,651/- with fifteen percent as community contribution to construct two hand pumps. Prior to the Hand Pump installation almost all the household in the village used to fetch water from neighboring village.

Now the hand pumps are installed and benefitting 51 households. About 50 percent of the beneficiaries are women. Besides, hand pump construction the community practices the basic health and hygiene practices reducing their vulnerability to diseases and relieving the female including the girls to utilize their time in other productive tasks. The women of the village are very pleased and thankful to EPS for solving their main issue.

The other major outcomes include the integration of gender and their needs in the traditional male dominated society. This scheme created the sense of pride in both men and women to have independent household access to water and increased women’s dignity. They are now willing to form a female community organization as they have now realized that it is possible to respond to the needs and priorities of the marginalized people.

- Gathering water which required much time and efforts as women and girl children had to make four separate trips a day to get the water which kept them from household tasks, personal sanitation and other activities.
- Women and girls had to wait until after dark to relieve themselves affecting their health and expose to violence.
- Washing clothes and dishes with less or no water increasing the chances of contamination.

