

JWF Fund 2022- Project Outline

[Rehabilitation of Irrigation System in Baka Khel District \(Pakistan\)](#)

- Organization: Human Development Organization (#092)
- Location: Pakistan
- Cost: US\$5,500 (JWF Fund: US\$1,500, beneficiaries:US\$4,000)
- Number of direct beneficiaries: 2,500 people
- Background:

Although the area had irrigation canals, water infiltration was severe because they were constructed only of excavated soil. Despite the fertile land, local farmers could only harvest crops once a year. It was clear that in order to secure sufficient agricultural production, an adequate water supply was necessary. However, due to the high cost of equipment and materials, the farmers lacked the financial capacity to rehabilitate their irrigation systems.



Irrigation canal before implementation



Irrigation canal after implementation

- Main activities of the project:
 - Establishment of an Implementation Committee responsible for project management
 - Rehabilitation of 250 feet of irrigation canal, and post-project activities
 - Establishment of an operational structure, including a post-renovation functional maintenance fund
- Sustainability activities: All beneficiary communities are responsible for operations and maintenance of the facilities. The recurrent costs of the project will be borne by the community, with farmers contributing Rs1,000 per acre per year for maintenance.

JWF Fund 2022 - Results of Follow-up Observations

[Rehabilitation of Irrigation System in Baka Khel District \(Pakistan\)](#)

【Current situation】

- The facility that has been constructed is functioning very well and has not suffered any significant damage so far. The facility has eliminated some significant threats to food production, namely water shortages, recurring droughts, floods, diseases, and feed shortages.
- Farmers in the project area, who were previously totally dependent on the river for their crops, no longer lack water for irrigation during the dry season, as they now have an adequate irrigation system for the available water sources. The impoverished community can now devote less labour labour to cleaning irrigation canals. As a result, farmers are growing two crops, and some are growing a third for fodder or home gardens.
- The Project Implementation Committee (PIC), composed of community elders and farmers, acts as facility manager, responsible for overall project management, monitoring, implementation, and procurement of materials. It is also responsible for community mobilization for production support, collection of annual dues for maintenance costs, and management of cost-sharing funds.

【Changes】

- Conflicts regarding water theft and water use have now been resolved.
- The facility has increased the income of local people through expanded agricultural production, improving their standard of living.
- The facility has triggered the emergence of new leaders in the community.
- The improved standard of living has allowed the farming community, especially women, to find free time for other productive work.

【Other Points】

- Since health and sanitation are closely related, the construction of this irrigation facility has indirectly led to improved sanitation in the community.



Current Irrigation canal



Current Irrigation canal

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Voices of the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mrs. Umar Khan, 50 years old, farmer

We use the facility on a regular basis without hesitation and find it much easier than before. Enough water is now supplied to the tail end of the irrigation canal. Before the facility was built, there were constant disputes over water theft, but now the community feels peaceful. Additionally, agricultural production per acre has increased and we feel very happy as it is our only source of income.



Mr. Malik Mir Zakim Khan, 60 years old, PIC member

Funding and human resources are the joint responsibility of all beneficiaries and annual maintenance fees are collected from the beneficiary community. Since we belong to the same tribe, there are no financial or human resource problems. All the beneficiaries are very happy to be relieved from the hard work of cleaning the muddy irrigation canals, and there are no more disputes over water theft. In addition, feedback has been coming in that the community is expecting huge revenues due to the continuous good harvest. They now gladly pay the annual maintenance fee, which helps keep the facility up and running.



Mr. Haji Khan, 45 years old, sheep breeder

It is good that the facilities and water resources have allowed us to grow more forage crops and double the amount of livestock. WASH training covered not only how to maintain the facilities, but also climate resilient multi-crop cultivation, business development skills, and working with government departments. Through multi-crop cultivation, farmers now have climate-resilient fodder crops to feed their livestock. We are now in regular contact with the government's Agricultural Development Dept. and Livestock Production Dept. regarding protected seeds and quality breeding.



Mr. Mamoor Khan Wazi, 30 years old

We can now grow two or three crops a year, bringing more income to the people. We have also seen an increase in school enrollment among children. Everything connected with this project is a positive outcome for us and we thank HDO staff and JWF, which has brought such great results in water management and agricultural production. Health and sanitation will also improve in the coming years, as health and sanitation are closely related to the standard of living.