

Support to polio eradication through WASH and increased resilience of communities against disasters and health hazards

Background

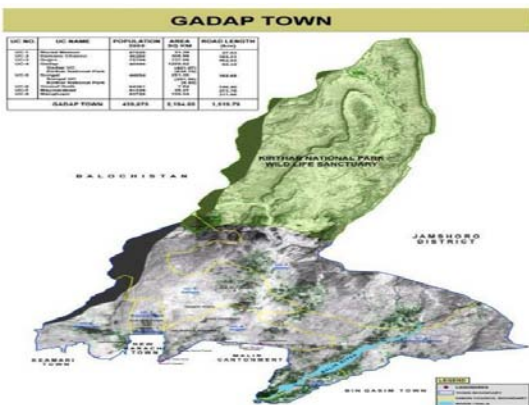
Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious, viral disease that attacks the nervous system. Frequently, its victims display no symptoms, but about one in 200 infected children suffers from paralysis and sometimes death. Anyone can contract the disease, but children under five years of age are most vulnerable. Timely immunization with today's safe and effective oral vaccines is the most effective way to prevent infection. Today, only three countries have endemic polio transmission – Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. India was removed from the list of endemic countries in January 2012.

Polio is a fecal/oral disease and poor water supply, hygiene and sanitation are fundamental to its transmission. The communities living in high risk areas generally exhibit poor hygienic behaviour. In the highest risk Union Council (UC) like Gadap Town (Karachi, Sindh) there is a need for polio eradication interventions along with efforts for improved hygiene behaviours and improved access to water and sanitation services.

Gadap is one of the towns of Karachi prone to different hazards and risks. A mixed population of Pakistani and Afghan Pakhtoons are living in the town. Due to unplanned growth and influx of Afghan immigrants (registered and unregistered), the authorities are unable to properly provide them with services. This town is in District Municipal Corporation-Malir under the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

This town is also one of the major contributors of polio infection and other health hazards. People from different regions of Pakistan and even Afghanistan come to Karachi, bring and get infected and take the infection back to their homes. One of the major points of polio virus transfer is the Union Council IV of Gadap Town, and more specifically in and around the Sohrab Goth area, where vaccination coverage is low. WHO discovered polio contaminated water in River Lyari at the downstream of Sohrab Goth.

Gadap Town is comprised of eight (8) Union Councils with a total registered population of 439,675 (as per 2005 census) and approximately another 300,000 unregistered individuals.



Area of Work in Gadap Town, UC4



Intervention area in UC4

Central issue addressed

UN-Habitat focused its broader assistance in Junejo colony in Scheme 33 of UC4, one particular area in Gadap Town. This colony has a population of 46,000 (approx. 7,000 households). The population is exposed to annual flooding whenever heavy rains occur in the catchment area of River Lyari. During floods, the people living on the edge of the river are exposed to multiple hazards; they are left to find shelter in nearby mosques and other public buildings build on higher grounds.

UN-Habitat's innovative approach to polio eradication is through improved access to WASH basic social services in Gadap Town, Karachi, while it also focused on increased resilience of communities to disasters and health hazards.

Addressing the need for essential water, hygiene and sanitation increased the acceptance of polio vaccination and addressed critical underlying determinants of the continuing circulation of wild polio virus in the high priority areas targeted by the project.

Key accomplishments by project components

A. Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- Construction of Basic Health Unit (BHU)
- Cleaning of Layari river
- Construction of retaining walls
- Provision of waste bins
- Construction of handrail for foot bridge
- Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Training
 - Basic concept about the disasters
 - Impact of the disasters
 - Local norms and ways to handle any disaster
 - Introduction to vulnerabilities
 - Methods of participatory assessment
 - Introduction of capacity of the community
 - Finalization of the Disaster Plan
 - Establishment of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

B. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- Conduct of Social survey on sample size of 100 households to assess current health condition of the community who are drinking water from the existing water pipelines
- Repair of sewerage lines and manholes
- Construction and repair of manholes
- Establishment of Water supply network
- Establishment of Environmental club
- Conduct of Social audit
- Conduct of Health and Hygiene promotion campaigns and activities:
 - Hand washing method
 - Critical timings of hand washing for females
 - Critical timings of hand washing for males
 - Water purification method at house hold level
 - ORS preparation
 - Importance of cleanliness
 - Self-hygiene



Construction of Basic Health Unit (BHU)



Cleaning of Layari river



"Before" and "After" photos

Joint UNICEF-UN Habitat project 2014

Project location : Junejo, Machar and Hassan Mooman Colony of UC4 Gadap Town (UN-Habitat has already implemented activities in 70 streets of Junejo Colony of Gadap Town under the One UN Programme).

Project duration : 1st December 2013 – 30 September 2014

Population covered : 10,000 households (approx. 71,000 individuals)

Expected Outcome and Activities

1. Enabling environment created to support hygiene behaviour change interventions.
 - a. Social mobilization for creating demand of sanitation and community action planning through formation of WASH clubs and rolling out SLTS under PATS.
 - b. Launch Sanitation Mass Media Campaign (press, radio, TV, billboards).
 - c. Baseline study through conduct of technical and social survey.
 - d. MIS development for conduct of hazard and vulnerability assessment.
2. Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructures in 30 neighbouring streets of Junejo colony, 30 streets of Machar colony and 50 streets of Hassan Moomon colony of Gadap town.
 - a. Construction of 2 overhead water tank 20,000 gallons to replace household pumping system with gravity fed distribution system in UC4 and 20 H.P motor and underground storage.
 - b. Installation of 2 water filtration plants at community level.
 - c. Rehabilitation of sanitation network in UC4 including laying of 9" diameter sewer line (10,000 Rft.) and construction of 300 new manholes.
 - d. Construction of P.C.C street pavements, 6-12ft wide along with drains for effective drainage of storm water (4,000 Rft.)
 - e. Formation of WASH clubs and rolling out SLTS under PATS.
 - f. Provision of safe water storage and disinfection facilities in schools and Madrasa targeting.

Scope of work at UC4 Gadap Town

1. Basic Health Units (BHU).
2. Retaining/ Protection walls at banks of River Layari.
3. Solid waste management (Pilot Plant/ Proper Disposal).
4. Community Resource Centers for females.
5. Educational facility for male and females to support SLTS & CLTS.
6. Improved sanitation system (sewage treatment).
7. Water supply network to improve water quality at door step.
8. Street pavement.

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