

The South Asia Water Security Initiative (SAWASI) program is focused on improving access to safe water and sanitation in urban areas in the South Asia region, through promotion of the 'Water Sensitive Cities' approach.

The main features characterising the 'Water Sensitive Cities' approach include

Water-self-sufficiency with access to a variety of water sources (through e.g. efficient use, recycling, rainwater harvesting) The natural environment and healthy ecosystems providing community benefits (e.g. wetlands, parks; helping flood management, cooling etc.)

An informed and involved community (e.g. involved in taking decisions)

## **PROGRESS Oct 23 to Feb 24**

**Community Demonstration Project** 

### PAKISTAN

- ▶ 33 participatory meetings held including 898 community members.
- Focus on installation of WSC structures such as RWHS (175), ablution water reuse system (1), solarising filtration plants (2), sewerage connections (200 houses), and landscaping green spaces (2).
- Community reports positive feedback on the WSC structures which have restored water recharge and feedback loops.
- Communities involved in active operation and maintenance of WSC structures.
- Meetings with the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), and the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad to discuss issues related to implementation.
- One city level learning workshop held to discuss the community's experiences and perceived benefits through APWASI interventions towards becoming a water sensitive community.

### **Technical Assistance**

- Continued contribution to the implementation of Government's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Rural Transformation (AMRUT 2.0)
- Outputs produced on a range of sectors connected to circular economy of water; wastewater recycling and reuse; ground water management and waterbody rejuvenation
- Government stakeholders appreciative and value capacity building efforts (reflected in the application in various initiatives)
- Findings of hydrological analysis provide a comprehensive understanding of the likely adverse impacts of extreme rainfall events across urban Lahore and the resultant challenges to the drainage system
- A learning exchange and exposure visit by five senior officials to Australia has helped in formalizing strategic long-term relationships between Pakistan and Australia

#### INDIA

- 69 community meetings with over 1500 participants contributing to WSC design and discussions.
- Women leaders of CAG actively engage with government officials to advocate for better services, including water provision, sewage and solid waste management services.
- Worked with communities to develop an inclusive park, which included addressing solid waste management issues, making the park accessible for disabled community members, and selecting local species to green the park.
- Convened the Delhi City Learning Workshop to discuss the preparation of a baseline for Delhi using the WSC index.

**SAUJASI** The South Asia Water Security Initiative

Aid

**Australian** 

PROGRAM BY

Relevant to the strategic objectives of Australia's capacity development goals

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Working on government relationships with the ministries by responding to their immediate needs

MAIN FINDINGS The evaluation found that since commencement in 2021.

the program has

generally been:

Effective in ensuring that communities are aware of the Water Sensitive Cities approach, and involved in planning rainwater harvesting structures and filtration plants in line with the approach

Adaptive, with removal of COVID-19 travel restrictions enabling face-to-face interactions and better engagement for TA with government stakeholders And that communities and the government generally perceive the program to be positive

SAWASI is supported by the Australian Government and implemented in India by Arup (Australia Proprietary Limited) and a consortium led by the World Resources Institute, and in Pakistan by a consortium led by the World Wide Fund for Nature, Pakistan and Adam Smith International.



The SAWASI Program has three components:

**Community Demonstration Projects (CDPs)**, which involve moving four urban disadvantaged communities along the water security spectrum, from a predominantly 'Water Supply' stage towards a 'Water Sensitive' stage.

The not necessarily exclusive stages (and their main features) that cities/areas normally go through towards achieving a 'Water Sensitive' status are depicted below.



- **2** Technical Assistance (TA) to the governments in South Asian Countries to introduce 'Water Sensitive Cities' approaches in urban planning and design.
- **Regional and city level learning workshops** to promote and share learnings on the 'Water Sensitive Cities' approach.

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries need to update a risk mitigation strategy to facilitate continued government engagement and mitigate against disruptions to the remaining timelines, including due to national elections
- 2 Continue to collect feedback from government and community members to understand program reach and influence
- 3 Improve reporting by agreeing targets, revising assumptions and indicators and collecting feedback on MEL from DFAT posts, grantees and TA firms