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# SUSTAINABLE WATER PARTNERSHIP IN PAKISTAN

The USAID-funded Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP) develops and implements participatory water resource management to strengthen water security, which is essential to improving public health and livelihoods, alleviating poverty and supporting economic growth as well as political stability.

## IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA (KP) PROVINCE

USAID/Pakistan requested SWP's technical assistance in conducting a water governance assessment, focusing on their recent government-to-government contribution of \$140 million for the completion of the Gomal Zam Dam and associated hydropower, irrigation infrastructure and command area development.

Adopting a holistic water security vision, SWP determined that some benefits had been achieved by ensuring year-round irrigation in large areas downstream of the dam. However, delays in developing the command area and in implementing accompanying capacity-building activities (such as establishing water user associations (WUAs), supporting livestock management, diversifying crops and developing value chains) were preventing the full realization of most envisioned targets. These were due to a lack of technical, coordination and institutional capacities among the implementing counterpart organizations, as well as inherent limitations of the direct government-to-government support mechanism.

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The CEO Water Mandate

## RESULTS

Beginning in the spring of 2017, SWP began a strategic water security assessment of agricultural water management in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province of Pakistan that culminated in an agricultural water governance workshop for key stakeholders at both the central and provincial levels. Before the workshop, SWP produced a preliminary report that included:

- A summary of KP Province's main water security issues, with a focus on agricultural water management;
- An inventory and analysis of water user groups and the roles they play—or may play—in mitigating water risks today and in the future; and
- A rapid institutional capacity assessment of the organizations that have prominent roles and responsibilities in agricultural water management for the province.

The preliminary report included a range of recommendations for addressing water vulnerabilities and risks (stresses and shocks) associated with agricultural water management. Recommendations related to institutional strengthening, improved operations of existing or planned infrastructure, new or improved gray or green infrastructure, and public education and social/behavioral change.

In addition to convening relevant central and provincial-level stakeholders, the SWP workshop acted as a platform for knowledge leaders to provide immediate feedback and discuss the viability of proposed immediate, medium and long-term actions to operationalize the command area. These comments were then integrated into a final report with clear recommendations to USAID/Pakistan including:

- The facilitation, support and institutionalization of a provincial-level dialogue on agricultural water management and governance to achieve higher water productivity and sustainability; and
- An outline to improve planning, design, procurement, implementation and M&E of future similar investments.

