

CLEAN DRINKING WATER INITIATIVE (CDWI) PROJECT

According to a study conducted by PCRWR under “National Water Quality Monitoring Program”, it was revealed that most of the drinking water samples in the surveyed 21 cities were found fit for consumption with respect to physicochemical and aesthetic water quality parameters but in none of the cities all samples were safe from bacterial contamination. There is no doubt that majority of the population of the country is exposed to the hazard of drinking unsafe and polluted water. The water supplies in all the major cities are found microbiologically unfit for human consumption. It is therefore no surprise that the inhabitants of these cities frequently suffer from the incidence of waterborne diseases. It also gives indications of the very serious extent of the problem that could be prevalent in much greater proportions in smaller towns and rural areas of Pakistan.

The development objective of the “Clean Drinking water Initiative” project is to provide water purification plants of 2000 gallons/ hour capacity in all districts of Pakistan including AJK/ NA and FATA consisting of various stages including pre-filtration works, filtration, purification and ultra-violet disinfection. Various packages have been designed under the proposed project according to the availability of the source of water and the kind of treatment required based on the contamination present in the raw water. The project was approved at a cost of 115 Million in the year 2004.

Since the supply of clean water is a municipal function, the role of Ministry of Environment/ Pak-EPA will be to provide the technical support to the provinces by installing various plants at selected places on turn key basis and then handing it over to local municipal administration. An agreement will be made in between the sponsoring and executing agencies including the M/o Environment, Pak-EPA and the Provincial Governments/ Local Government Authorities for the deliverables/ facilities required to erect the plant. A precise criterion for installation of these water purification plants has been worked out based on consideration of social, economical, environmental and health factors. The local government institutions will be the owners of the water purification plants to be installed at the public places. The plants will be constructed and handed over to the local government institutions. These institutions will coordinate with the project cell of Pak-EPA during the construction stage and during the operation and maintenance of the plants.

Safe drinking water through water purification plants will provide safeguard to human health, including reduction in the mortality rate (associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene) by improving the quality of drinking water.