

United Action for Human Development (UAHD)

Annual Report 2017

Introduction

United Action for Human Development (UAHD) has been actively involved in promoting Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices through School WASH Clubs and supporting vulnerable communities in Taluka Jacobabad. This report provides a comprehensive overview of two key activities undertaken in 2017: the School WASH Club sessions and the distribution of ration packages in the village of Ahmedpur. These initiatives aimed to enhance the well-being of students and communities by focusing on hygiene awareness and addressing food security challenges.

Objectives

- Promote WASH Awareness:** Educating students about water safety, sanitation, and hygiene through interactive learning.
- Empower Youth Leadership:** Developing students' leadership abilities to advocate for better hygiene practices within their schools and communities.
- Support Vulnerable Communities:** Distributing essential food rations to families in need, specifically in Ahmedpur village, to alleviate food insecurity.

Activities Conducted

1. School WASH Club Formation and Training

At the start of the year, WASH Clubs were established in schools across Taluka Jacobabad. These clubs were designed to empower students with knowledge on sanitation, hygiene, and water conservation. Training sessions for students focused on:

- Safe Water Use:** Educating students on how to ensure their water sources are safe and how to use water effectively.
- Handwashing Techniques:** Demonstrating proper handwashing steps and emphasizing the importance of hygiene.
- Sanitation Practices:** Teaching students about maintaining clean surroundings, proper waste disposal, and the prevention of waterborne diseases.

These sessions were complemented by hands-on activities like building simple water filters and conducting hygiene awareness campaigns within the schools and surrounding communities.

The WASH Clubs were set up in both male and female schools to ensure equal participation. Special emphasis was placed on encouraging female students, who may have had limited access to such initiatives, to actively participate in the WASH sessions. Separate sessions for male and

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female students allowed for more tailored discussions, ensuring a comfortable environment for both genders to openly discuss hygiene and sanitation topics.

2. Ration Distribution in Ahmedpur Village

A significant part of UAHD's efforts in 2024 involved the distribution of food rations in Ahmedpur village. This was a crucial initiative to support families facing food insecurity due to socio-economic challenges, climate-related factors, and limited access to resources.

- **Ration Packages:** The distribution included essential items such as flour, rice, cooking oil, pulses, sugar, and tea. The ration packages were designed to provide immediate relief to households struggling to meet basic nutritional needs.
- **Targeting Vulnerable Households:** Priority was given to the most vulnerable families, including widows, elderly individuals, and households with children or disabled members.
- **Community Engagement:** Local leaders and community groups were actively involved in the planning and distribution process, ensuring that aid reached those who needed it most and fostering a sense of solidarity within the community.

The ration distribution was conducted in partnership with local authorities and volunteers, with each family receiving a package that was intended to last for a month.

3. Health and Hygiene Campaigns

In conjunction with the WASH Club activities, health and hygiene campaigns were conducted throughout the year. These included:

- **Awareness Drives:** Students from the WASH Clubs led door-to-door campaigns in surrounding areas, educating families about the importance of hygiene practices and safe drinking water.
- **Community Workshops:** Workshops were organized for parents and community leaders to discuss the importance of maintaining hygiene standards in homes and schools.
- **Distribution of Hygiene Kits:** Hygiene kits containing soap, hand sanitizers, and educational materials were distributed to families in need, particularly those in Ahmedpur village.

Achievements

1. Increased WASH Awareness

Over 300 students across 10 schools (both male and female) participated in WASH Club sessions, and thousands of community members in Ahmedpur and surrounding areas benefited from the hygiene campaigns. This has led to improved hygiene practices, such as more frequent handwashing and better waste management.

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2. Empowerment of Students

The WASH Club members took active roles in organizing and leading hygiene drives. Their leadership skills were strengthened through these activities, and many students have since become ambassadors of WASH practices within their families and communities. The active participation of both male and female students created a balanced approach to hygiene advocacy.

3. Alleviating Food Insecurity

The ration distribution in Ahmedpur was a vital intervention, reaching 200 households. This helped families cope with food shortages, providing them with basic food supplies that improved their nutritional intake for the month. The distribution not only provided immediate relief but also reinforced the community's resilience during difficult times.

4. Strengthened Community Engagement

Both the WASH and ration distribution initiatives fostered closer cooperation between schools, local authorities, and community members. This collaborative effort ensured that the activities were well-received and effective in addressing community needs.

Challenges

While the initiatives have had a positive impact, several challenges were encountered:

- **Logistical Issues:** The remote location of Ahmedpur posed challenges in terms of transportation and timely distribution of the ration packages.
- **Resource Limitations:** There was a shortage of resources in some areas, which limited the scope of food ration distributions.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Some community members were initially hesitant to participate in hygiene activities due to traditional practices or a lack of awareness about the importance of hygiene.

Conclusion

The combined efforts of United Action for Human Development in Taluka Jacobabad have had a significant impact on both hygiene practices and food security in the region. Through the School WASH Club sessions, students were empowered to become advocates for better sanitation, and the ration distribution in Ahmedpur provided much-needed relief to vulnerable families. The initiatives have not only addressed immediate needs but have also laid the groundwork for sustainable, community-driven improvements in health, hygiene, and food security.

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Pictorial view:



NFIs distribution, School and community awareness and Capacity building trainings