

Some slight reflections on our Sindh field visit (**Tharparkar and Umerkot districts**) 4 – 8 October 2015

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-> Huge discrepancy between WFP and our project cash for training rates.

Drought continues in Sindh for the fourth year in a row, since 2011. This year, it rained 2 times end of June – beginning of July and second half of September, totalling 100 to 200 mm depending on areas while 4 rains are needed for agriculture fed agriculture with 300 + mm.  
Drought is actually chronically cyclical in Sindh.

In villages like

Lala Baah, 450 HH, population 3350, and  
Sadamani, 154 HH, population 1396, 220 males, 200 females, 900 + children,  
there is no school and children do not go to school.

Our nutrition and WASH partners, Concern and WHH, and their partners, TRDP, RDF, are doing a good job. At the same time, they could and should do much better and more, be more ambitious. Mostly what they do, water tanks and ponds, latrines, do not make a great difference, they cannot have a great impact, they catch or collect some more rain water, maybe for an extra month or so; there will be some latrines while the majority of the community will keep not having access to a latrine – we can wonder whether that is a problem in terms of public health, causing WASH related diseases, in a scattered habitat with a hot dry climate. Yet, there are some possibilities: a pipeline exists along the asphalt road, running towards the border; there are a few distribution points along the pipeline, the closest one to Lala Baah is 8.5 km away; then, discuss / negotiate possibilities of connections – with the owner, the military, while visible leaks can be decreased and production increased.

The wells we could see are deep, > 300 up to 500 ft or 100 to # 150 m, it is impressive to know they were dug by hand by some members of the communities in the years 2000; it is also impressive to see the long ropes and to see a few men walk and pull 300 to 500 ft for the water eventually to reach the surface, in a quite small quantity, probably around 15 l – animals, donkeys or camels, are also used for that burden. Then, it would be worth motorizing wells with solar energy – sun is available and generous; after the initial investment, there are hardly any running costs. People are ready or used to paying a fee for water: the latter should be able to cover the costs, at least the running costs and possibly the repair and replacement costs when they become needed, to be calculated and checked. Of course, the wells to be motorized should be pump

tested and the right size pump should be installed. Then, a small distribution network with storage reservoir could be envisaged.

The capacity of 100 l for the tank appearing on the BoQ for Solar water pump seems very / too little.

We visited the site planned for the construction of a communal water pond in Lala Baah: currently a natural depression collecting water, it was already empty only a month after the last rain; although water was much used, the current pond must be little tight and water then infiltrates quite quickly; the planned works should improve water tightness.

Existing HH water reservoirs (thanka) were little filled because of little rain. The catchment area is 400 sq ft, 20 ft x 20 ft # 7 m x 7 m # 44 m<sup>2</sup>. The capacity of new HH water reservoirs to be constructed is to be 2 x 1900 l. It would probably be good to increase the latter as rains can reach 100 mm and then the volume received on the catchment area is 4.4 m<sup>3</sup>.

Underground water is often brackish and RDF developed a solar powered HH reverse osmosis plant that can produce 10 l of desalted water out of 20 l of raw water; the water produced is distilled and is then to be mixed with some normal or non-such treated distilled water.

#### Nutrition with UNICEF

Of course, it is extremely touching, heartbreaking to see malnourished or, rather, undernourished children and it is just great to support them, possibly / likely to save some.

Families / mothers should be helped / supported to reach the mobilization center in a very remote town.

Such a mobilization center should be duplicated / multiplied.

Nothing much seems to be made against the very cause that is mainly poverty.

An aggravating factor is probably early pregnancy for young girls not fully formed and the number of children.

And poverty is also very much linked to the feudal system that prevails in the region where people get into the vicious cycle of indebtedness, worsened by poor harvests while 50 % of those have to be given the landlord.

UNICEF moves everywhere with a police escort that sometimes drive quite fast and literally open the way, pushing apart the traffic with angry gestures, sometimes siren and rotating beacon, behaving quite aggressively.

They have big AVs, armored vehicles, but we have to use the light cars of the local partners to reach the villages on sandy dirt roads out of the asphalt. They could appear to be close to being arrogant, which is not the best security-wise.

It was decided to give up meeting the Karachi Health cell as its head was unfortunately not available.