



News Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

USAID Launches \$16.7 Million Safe Drinking Water Project

Islamabad, February 14, 2007 – The U.S. government on behalf of the American people on Wednesday donated \$ 16.7 million to Pakistan for the provision of safe drinking water in 31 selected districts/agencies of all the four provinces, including the earthquake-affected areas of NWFP, FATA and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). The Acting Deputy Administrator of USAID, James R. Kunder, inaugurated the nationwide project at a ceremony held at the Government Girls' High School, Sector III in Rawalpindi.

“Water and sanitation-related diseases were responsible for sixty per cent of the total number of child mortality cases in Pakistan,” USAID’s Kunder said in his keynote address. “With the support of the American people, the Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project will provide technical assistance in hygiene, sanitation promotion, community mobilization and capacity building in order to compliment Pakistan's substantial investments in hardware for safe drinking water.”

The senior USAID official, James Kunder, said that in line with President Pervez Musharraf’s efforts to make his vision for ‘Clean Drinking Water for All’ become a reality, the project was being implemented in partnership with the Government of Pakistan’s Clean Drinking Water Program.

The project is being implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Abt. Associates. Support for this project is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance.

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