



Approval Date:	14 December 2006
Closing Date:	31 March 2012
Commitment Amount:	US\$ 156 million
Percentage Disbursed:	11% (As of 31 December 2008)
Implementing Agency:	Department of Water Supply and Sanitation (DWSS), Government of Punjab

**Context:**

One-third of Punjab's villages do not get safe drinking water and half the rural households of the state need proper and hygienic sanitation facilities. The Project is helping the Government of Punjab set up new drinking water schemes with private connection through piped water system for 3,000 villages, and improve existing water supply schemes in another 1,600 villages; it will also help some 1,100 villages adopt improved environmental sanitation schemes including community based small bore sewerage system in around 100 villages. This will help improve the quality of life for some 7.4 million people in Punjab's villages.

**Project Development Objective:**

To assist the Government of Punjab in increasing the access of rural communities to improved and sustainable rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) services.

**Project Components:**

- **Program Management:** Finance the establishment and operating costs of the program institutions and training, consultancies, and goods and equipment;
- **Community Development:** Finance consultancy contract fees of the Support Organizations (SOs) for their services to the DWSS, *Gram Panchayats* (GPs), and project communities and the operating cost of DWSS staff for providing support to village communities for both new schemes and for performance improvement of existing schemes;
- **Infrastructure Building:** Finance civil works contracts for improving drinking water schemes in 3,000 villages; finance upgrades to existing water supply schemes in 1,600 villages; finance installation of defluoridization and





reverse osmosis plants and potable water treatment units on pilot basis; finance construction of small bore sewers and sewerage schemes in 100 villages which already have good household sanitation coverage but where the release of septic tank effluent on the village streets and open drains creates a serious health hazard; and finance rehabilitation of existing sullage drains and village ponds in about 1,000 villages to improve water disposal systems and reduce environmental degradation.

**Location:**

In all 20 districts of the state.

**Status:**

Implementation has started in 95 schemes and institutional arrangements for initiating the decentralized, demand-led and participatory program in the remaining schemes are being actively pursued.

The access to safe water is improving. All schemes that have been commissioned have achieved financial sustainability.

The villagers' initial hesitation regarding the family contribution for the schemes has been sorted out with the revision of the cost-sharing rules in November 2008.

