



## Stakeholders' Workshop on Future Water Availability for Okara District

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023  
Venue: IWMI Okara Office, inside OFWM Research Farm,  
Renala Khurd, district Okara, Punjab

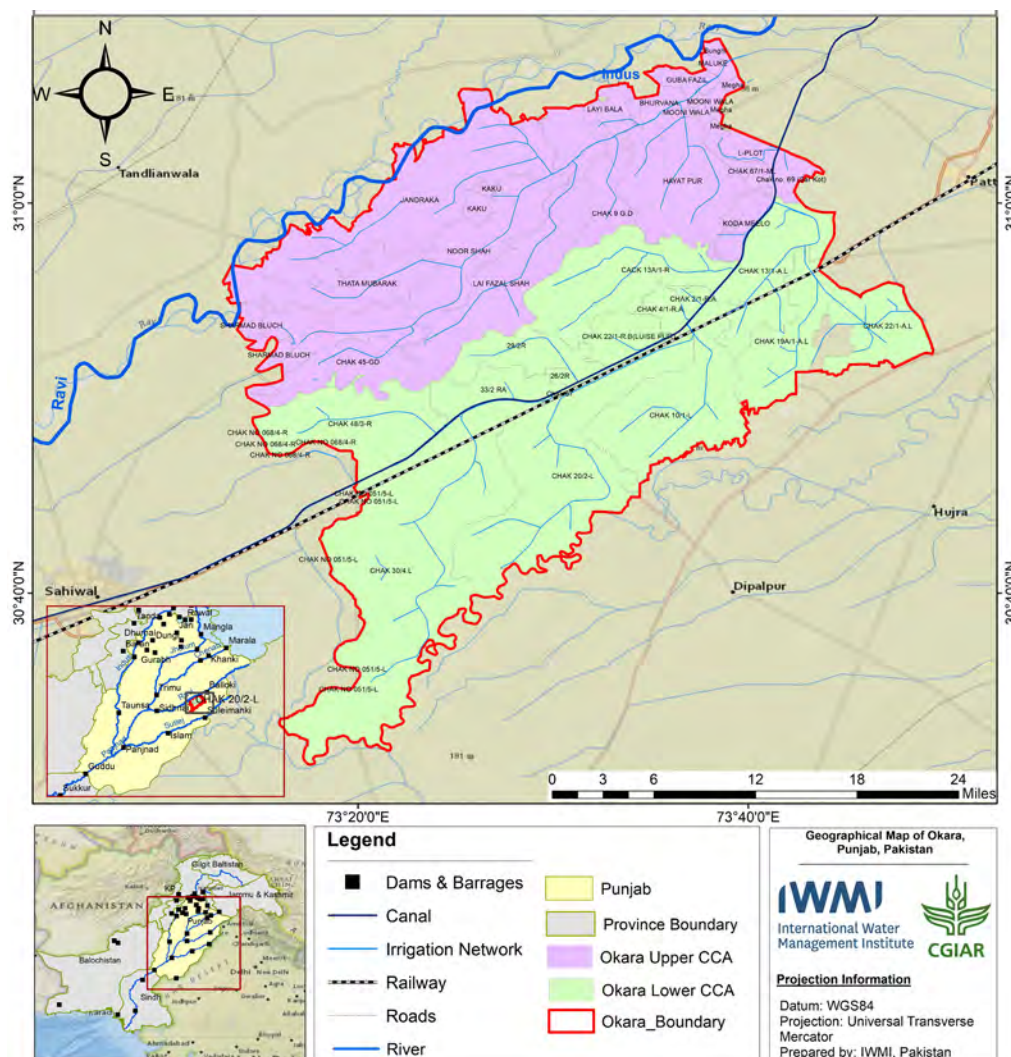


## Background

The current water availability in Pakistan is approximately 1000 cubic meters per capita, placing it among “High Water Stress” countries. Pakistan is one of the worst affected countries due to extreme weather events resulting in extreme precipitation and dry periods. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment of 2022 floods in Pakistan reveals that the floods have led to damages worth US\$ 14.9 billion, with more than 1700 people killed and 33 million people affected. The report highlights the total needs of the government at US\$ 16.3 billion to recover from this flood.

Climate change is a water crisis. The water sector addresses water supply, storage, and sanitation for cities. Water is resource critical and is embedded with other sectors, development goals and communities, including health, energy, agriculture, cities, equality and poverty alleviation, ecosystems and natural resource management, forestry, disaster preparedness, and recovery and management.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan is implementing the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Program Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG) under the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The program aims to improve water governance through strengthening national capacities for implementing climate-smart interventions in Pakistan.



Okara is the pilot district of WRAP Program Component 1: CRS-IWaG

## About the workshop

Punjab Water Act 2019 is a key legislation to regulate water use and provide enabling policy support for its sustainability. Punjab Water Commission and Punjab Water Services Regulatory Authority have been established. However, at the district Okara level, the knowledge and understanding of Punjab Water Act 2019 is limited.

IWMI Pakistan is organizing an awareness raising stakeholders' workshop to highlight the salient features of Punjab Water Act 2019 and its importance for district Okara. The role of IWMI Pakistan in the implementation of Punjab Water Act 2019 and National Water Policy 2018 will also be highlighted.

**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2023

**Timings:** 10:30 – 14:00

**Venue:** IWMI Okara Office, inside OWFM Research Farm, Renala Khurd, district Okara, Punjab



Kanwal Waqar, Researcher - Gender and Youth Specialist, IWMI Pakistan sensitizing female officials of Irrigation Department Okara



Ansir Ilyas, Researcher – Water Resources Management, IWMI Pakistan and Hafsa Aeman - Senior Research Officer - Geoinformatics, IWMI Pakistan analyse groundwater quality at a site in district Okara

## Objectives

The workshop has the following objectives:

- Provide knowledge and understanding of Punjab Water Act 2019.
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of different water regulators and users, including marginalized groups, who will be affected due to Punjab Water Act 2019 in district Okara.
- Provide an overview of WRAP Program Component 1: CRS-IWaG and ways it will benefit district Okara.

## Target Audience

District line departments (Agriculture, Irrigation, Public Health Engineering and Tehsil Municipal Administration), urban households, and farmers.



# Agenda

Timings	Activity	Presenter
10:30 - 11:00	Tea and registration	
11:00 - 11:05	Recitation	
11:05 - 11:10	Welcome remarks	<b>Dr. Mohsin Hafeez</b> <i>Country Representative - IWMI Pakistan and Project Leader, Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Program Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG)</i>
11:10 - 11:15	Welcome note	<b>Irfan Ali Kathia</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner, Okara</i>
11:15 - 11:35	About the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Program Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG)	<b>Dr. Mohsin Hafeez</b>
11:35 - 12:00	Overview of Punjab Water Act 2019	<b>Dr. Muhammad Javed</b> <i>Director, Social and Environment Management, Strategic Planning and Reform Unit (SPRU), Punjab Irrigation Department (PID)</i>
12:00 - 12:25	Impact of Punjab Water Act 2019 on agriculture sector	<b>Dr. Maqsood Ahmad</b> <i>Director, Training/Lahore Office, On Farm Water Management (OFWM), Punjab Agriculture Department</i>
12:25 - 12:35	Provision of water services to marginalized groups (gender, youth, elderly, disabled, ethnic minorities) in the context of Punjab Water Act 2019	<b>Kanwal Waqar</b> <i>Researcher - Gender and Youth Specialist, IWMI</i>
12:35 - 13:15	Roundtable Dialogue Connecting the dots: Addressing water governance, social inclusion and sustainability	<b>Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema</b> <i>Regional Researcher - Water Governance and Institutional Specialist, IWMI Pakistan</i>
13:15 - 13:30	Closing remarks and way forward	<b>Dr. Mohsin Hafeez</b>
13:30 - 14:00	Lunch	

## For more information about WRAP Program Component 1: CRS-IWaG

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