The Asia Foundation Strategy for Engagement

Making water an instrument for growth and unity

SDIP Phase II: Indus Basin Pakistan
TAF Goal and Thematic Focus
A nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across Asia

To bridge the gap between the citizen and the state

To foster human rights and social inclusion, especially for women and minorities

To build the capacity of Pakistani institutions to meet local and national development needs

Governance

Human Rights

Women’s Empowerment

Economic Development

Environmental Resilience

Regional cooperation

To promote better economic governance to expand opportunities

To improve environmental management practices

To support Asian integration
Indus Basin-Brief Background and Challenges

**Background**
- South Asia - a growing population of nearly 1.7 billion and is home to more than 40 percent of the world’s poor.
- The Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra transboundary rivers are central to water, food, and energy in the region and indirectly support nearly 700 million people.
- Pakistan and India-hydrologically dependent
- Increased demand for water in Pakistan and India

**Challenges**
- Energy, food, water sectors working in silos
- Shared water resources are highly politicized issues
- Effective policy-making requires a nuanced understanding of the natural and political complexity within which the nexus operates
- Discussion on state of transboundary water cooperation in South Asia is at an impasse.
TAF’s Strategic Approach and Key Interventions

- **Political economy analysis to enhance effectiveness of program interventions in transboundary water governance**
- **Using the nexus framework to expand stakeholder engagement and tradeable benefits in transboundary water negotiations**
- Develop basis for regional cooperation
- Create and use critical new knowledge
- Promote best practices, and innovation for contributing to creating an enabling environment
**Result 1:** Collaborative capacity of the state, civil society, and market institutions is strengthened

- Promote inter-disciplinary thinking through dialogues and forums among sub-national water, food, and energy managers
- PEA-based stakeholder interest mapping to reveal the complexity of political claims and interests in river systems
- Tri-lateral (state, civil society, and private sector) dialogue series on proposed plans and on-going policy processes to promote sustained engagements on live policy problems
- Practice-sharing forums for private sector investors to promote collaborative planning in small- and medium-scale investments in water projects
Result 2: Knowledge uptake in policy processes and community-level initiatives is supported

- Link community-level initiatives under SAWGP to SDIP knowledge partners through “local-level knowledge forums”

- Action research to document and disseminate into practice the scales, methods, applications, and processes of gender-disaggregated analysis of impacts of transboundary water interventions

- Regional practice-sharing workshop to document and disseminate laws, policies, and practices that promote constructive policy engagements in transboundary water issues

- Policy communication trainings to select mid-level water resource managers
**Result 3: Conducive rules of engagement and deliberative spaces are promoted**

- Link SAWGP-supported CSO-led regional mechanisms on transboundary water to SDIP and SAWGP knowledge and investment partners

- Dialogue facilitation skills training for prominent civil society interlocutors to hold dialogues with civil society groups that have divergent positions on the governance of transboundary water resources

- Journalism fellowships to select journalists to explore, publish, and bring to public discussion on contested transboundary water governance issues

- Support for a Track 1.5 process that engages key civil society interlocutors and informally engages government officials on transboundary water cooperation
Thank you