About this publication

This is an anthology of photo-stories and narrative accounts on WASH and climate change compiled from Participatory Photography Workshops organised by WaterAid Pakistan in collaboration with local communities.

The stories are kept original as they were shared and narrated by the participants of the workshops. Edits are done sparingly for the purpose of bringing clarity in the content and language.

About the title and back page

Title and back page depict creative illustrations on the participatory photography exercise

Credits

Compiled by: Sibtain Haider
Technical support by: Ayesha Javed
Designed at: Retroactive Studios
Creative direction and editing: Sumaira Sagheer
Design and layout: Uzma Toor
Illustrations: Shahmir Farooq

©2018 WaterAid Pakistan
**WaterAid and WASH**

WaterAid is an international charity working in 28 countries, including Pakistan. The organisation’s vision is a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. Our mission is to transform lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

WaterAid has supported the implementation of water and sanitation programmes in Pakistan since 1996 through its implementing partners and opened its first office in Pakistan in 2006. It has since then been operating to accomplish its mission by helping the marginalised segments of the country to access sustainable water supplies and sanitation services.

WaterAid works with partners, local organisations, and government authorities to design and demonstrate appropriate and sustainable WASH programmes. It also seeks to influence the policy change through government and other key sector actors to secure and protect the rights of marginalised and vulnerable people to safe and affordable water and sanitation services.
Introduction

WaterAid, as part of its advocacy efforts, engages groups of stakeholders through initiatives that help them better understand the significance of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and relate to these issues in an interactive and informed manner.

This anthology compiles the outcomes of engagement with young students as artists, using interactive learning exercises in photography with the aim to capture stories of WASH. All the stories in this publication are rendered as seen through the lens of young learners. In the process, they attempt to bring out a slice of life in WASH through narrative experiences. The content, therefore, is compiled with this spirit and brings out the human side of WASH as seen by young photography activists.

These stories are accounts of hope as well as deprivation; struggle as well as motivation; adversity as well as human efforts mobilised by WaterAid for overcoming the barriers to reach everyone, everywhere with safe water, sanitation and hygiene.
This section captures the photo-stories compiled by the participants of the interactive workshop in photography to highlight the issues of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as experienced by the local communities. The narrative accounts are kept simple and crisp to stay true to the experiences of WASH as seen through the eyes of young photographers.
Gulshan is a nine year old girl. She goes to Hope Middle School in class 4.

Gulshan doesn’t have a washroom in her house where her family can take shower. There is a toilet, however, but it does not have a tap in it. Therefore, her family members take shower outside. Since it’s an open place, Gulshan is not able to take shower properly. She says “I wish we had a proper bathroom in our house with a tap in it so I could also take a proper shower.”
Muddy water impacts health
“There is a general problem in our area as the cows’ dung is lying everywhere, which provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes. When these mosquitoes sit on drinking water, they contaminate it and spread different kinds of diseases in our village.”

Shahana is 10 years old. She is a resident of Shahbazwala village and a student of class 5 in a Government Girls High School.

There is a hand pump in her house, but it brings up muddy water. So her family boils the water for drinking. The water is not suitable for taking a shower either and causes skin problems. Shahana is very weak as she remains sick most of the time due to the infected water.
My name is Misbah and I am going to tell you about two good friends, Salma and Shahla. Both are students of grade 2 and classmates.

Unfortunately, both of them don’t have toilets in their homes. Their families go to the fields for their elimination needs. One day when they came to my house to use our toilet, I took their photos and asked them how would they have felt if they had toilets in their homes.
They said that it would make their lives much easier. “We wouldn’t have to go out in the fields. Going outside to relieve ourselves is a problem. Sometimes we come across people sitting in the fields using drugs. This is scary as anything can happen. If we had a toilet in our home, it would make our lives a lot easier.” Salma’s father doesn’t earn and Shahla’s family is very poor. Her father’s earning is barely sufficient for their day to day needs, let alone constructing a toilet in their house.

Salma’s and Shahla’s parents are poor and do not have the means to afford necessities like good food, clothes and provide proper facilities at home. When I asked her about their source of income, she said that they are struggling to make both ends meet with the financial support from her grandparents. She also said that her parents feel isolated because of their poverty.
This is Ayesha. She works in the fields, looking after the cotton balls for pests in the crop. She is very particular about her hygiene and keeps her house clean as well. She likes animals and is fond of goats the most.

Recently, her village got flooded. I asked Ayesha what problems she faced and what help did she get during that time. She said that her family was very worried. As the flood was about to enter their village, they were praying to God for help. She told me “we sent all of our children to Multan to stay at my sister’s house before the flood. Later, when the flood water entered our homes, army personnel rescued and helped us.”

Ayesha was also rescued by the army and sent to Multan. She also went to her sister’s house. Her family stayed there for a month during which they were looked after by their sister.
“When we returned to our homes after a month, there was water everywhere and floods had destroyed everything including our houses, utensils, crops and trees; we were left with nothing” she said. “There was an NGO working in our area that helped us reconstruct our houses and provided us with materials like bricks, etc. Gradually, we rebuilt our home and bought all the items necessary for our day to day needs.”

“...there was water everywhere and floods had destroyed everything...”

WaterAid/Misbah
This is a eight-year-old named Nadia. She wakes up very early in the morning and goes to the field for her elimination needs. She then comes back home and washes her hands and face before breakfast. During the course of the day, she plays and climbs up the trees, and each time has to go to the fields for her elimination needs. Her day is spent in sweeping and mopping the floors and collecting garbage from home as she likes to keep everything tidy. She also roasts cobs at home instead of buying it from the shop.

When I asked her why she didn’t buy them from the shop, she said “how can I be sure that they roast them with clean hands.”

I asked her when she defecates in the field, didn’t she think that she spreads germs and disease. She replied “we do not have the money to construct an in-house toilet; we really struggle to make a living. My mom works very hard, puts food on the table and bears the expense of our education by selling the milk of few farm animals that we own. How is it possible for us to construct a toilet in our home under these circumstances?”
Her name is Sonia. She is a 14-year-old student of class 8 with six siblings.

She joined the school in kindergarten and at that time there were four toilets in her school. She was in class 6 when she first had her periods. At that time, she was at home. She didn’t come to school as there were no girls’ friendly toilet and there were no sanitary products available in the school either. As a result of missing the school, she was falling behind in her studies.

Sonia didn’t know that she had to wash her hands after changing the cloth during her periods.

Sonia was very happy when Kubra baji came to conduct hygiene sessions and told the students that a girls’ friendly toilet was being constructed in the school.

She said “Kubra baji told us that we need to wash our hands after changing the soiled cloth.”

Since then, Sonia started to wash her hands frequently during her periods. She also changes her soiled cloth after every four hours. Now her mother does not stop her from eating anything.

The girls’ friendly toilet in Sonia’s school has a mirror, a safe place to keep and change sanitary products and a proper handwashing station. She can now look in the mirror for any stains on her cloth during her periods. This is a source of relief as it saves her from any embarrassment.”
Shahbaz is 8 years old and lives in a village. He is a student of class 3. Although he is poor but he is hardworking and always performs well in his studies. He has three sisters. He also has a brother. Shahbaz loves to play with bow and arrow and likes to fly kites. He is respectful to his parents and especially likes to help his mother with the household chores.

Shahbaz has a basic but very clean toilet in his house. When I asked him whether or not he had a tap in his house, he told me that there is a tap in his house with clean water. The tap water is being used for cooking, cleaning and drinking purposes. I asked him the reason for his house being so spotless and clean. He said, “My mother and sisters clean the house daily. I clean the street in front of our house and I also clean the place where we keep our farm animals.” In the end, he said “I like cleanliness because cleanliness is next to godliness.”
Her name is Meeno and she is a student of class 1. She is a six-year-old orphan living in her grandmother’s house along with her mother and three sisters. They are very poor and live in one room. Meeno is not careful about her hygiene and this is the reason that she often got sick. Meeno did not wash her hands after going to the washroom or before having a meal nor did she wear shoes when she went to the washroom. She even played barefoot with the goats.

One day she had stomach ache and went to her mother, who got worried and took her to the doctor. Doctor asked the mother whether Meeno had a habit of washing her hands with soap after using the toilet and before having her meals. Her mother’s response was in negative. The doctor said “The reason for her getting sick so frequently is not using soap to wash her hands...” Meeno now washes her hands with soap and she doesn’t get sick very often now.

“The reason for her getting sick so frequently is not using soap to wash her hands...”
My aunt doesn’t have a washroom in her house. She says that she feels very uncomfortable going outside for her elimination needs. But she doesn’t have the money to construct a washroom in her house as she doesn’t own any farm animal or any valuable item to sell and get the money to build a washroom.

She has two sons. One day he asked her “mother, how long do we have to stay like this?” Her husband told his son that he had only one farm animal and that he could sell it when it is fully grown to get the washroom constructed out of that money.

My aunt tells me that her elder son also faces a lot of issues when he goes to defecate in the fields.
“My wife says that going outside the house for defecating is a big problem...”

My uncle is a farmer, father of two sons and two daughters. They do not have a washroom in their house. My uncle waters other people’s fields to make a living. He is saving money to build a washroom in his house. He says that when his sons go outside, they face a lot of problems. He said “My wife and children do not use the fields as they think that this will spoil the crop and we will lose money. My wife and children work very hard and they will get the reward. My wife says that going outside the house for defecating is a big problem. I told her that her troubles will be over as soon we will have our own washroom.”
Aleena likes to keep it clean

She cleans herself properly and regularly washes her hands using soap...

This photo shows Aleena, a seven-year-old girl who has four sisters. Aleena not only goes to school but also helps her mother with the household chores. She cleans herself properly and regularly washes her hands using soap as she likes to take care of herself.

At home, she washes dishes, feeds her farm animals, cuts wood for cooking food, sweeps the floor, takes the garbage out of her home, washes clothes and collects water for watering her plants. In her free time, she likes to climb up the trees. Once, while climbing a tree, she tripped and hurt herself.
She is Misbah, a 13-year old girl who studies in grade 7.

According to her, at the time of her admission, there were four toilets in the school but she still felt uncomfortable using them as there was barely any water or provision of sanitary products in any of the school’s toilet. There were no facilities to cater for menstruating girls and even no waste basket in the toilets to dispose off the soiled cloth. The water coming from the taps was very dirty and there were no handwashing facilities. Because of the unavailability of these facilities, Misbah remained very hesitant to go to school during the days of her menstruation and used to remain absent for three or four consecutive days. “I used to skip school during the time of my menstruation. This took a toll on my studies as I couldn’t secure any position in the class”, she said. “After the construction of girls’ friendly toilet, provision of water supply, waste bin and a cabinet with sanitary napkins in the toilet, I feel comfortable coming to school even during the days of menstruation. I feel happy as I don’t have to miss any day of the school now”.

No more discomfort
She is a 7-year old girl named Zehra whose father is a peasant. She has four sisters. Her house doesn’t have a toilet. When she was asked where did she go when she felt the need for elimination, she told me that everyone in her house goes out in the open fields whenever they felt the need. “Although the field is far away from our home but we have no other option but to go there” she said.

Zehra has many friends including Resham, Aleena, Mahwish, Misbah, JuJu, Kinsa, Misbah and Rehana. All of her friends have toilets in their homes. Sometimes Misbah goes to one of her friends’ houses whenever she feels the need to use the toilet. Zehra told me that she is the only one amongst her friends who doesn’t have a toilet because her family is so poor that they cannot afford to construct a toilet in their home.
He is Mujahid, an 18-year-old poor farmer who works in the field all day long. When he was in his school-going age, his parents couldn’t send him to school because of poverty. His father was unable to afford the school tuition fee of Rs.20. They sometimes went to bed without having any food as his family couldn’t even afford to have three meals a day. Because of poverty, his father didn’t get either of his three sons educated.

Mujahid is eldest of his three brothers and is interested in pursuing farming. Though his house doesn’t have a toilet, he has only a tap in his home. Now, that this family’s financial situation has stabilised and he is grown up, he doesn’t want to get an education anymore. His family members are happy with their lives.
...you should never forget to wash your hands after using the toilet.

She is a 7 year old girl named Ishqeen. She did not use to wash her hands with soap after using the toilet.

One day, she came back from the toilet without washing her hands with soap as usual and went to play with her friends. When she returned home, she was not feeling well. When her dad inquired about her health, she complained of stomach ache. Her father asked her if she washed her hands with soap after using the toilet and her reply was in negative. Her dad said to her “If you had washed your hands with soap every time after using the toilet, you would never have fallen sick. You should never forget to wash your hands after using the toilet in future.” Since then, Ishqeen never forgets to wash her hands with soap after using the toilet.
Her name is Rimsha and she is 11 years old and has two brothers and a sister. She is a student of grade 3 in Hope School.

Rimsha studies and takes care of the household chores as well. Her family doesn’t have enough means to get her educated but she insists on going to school. Her mother and father have told her several times that they cannot afford to do so as they are very poor. They do not even have a farming land and the only piece of land they own is where their house is built.

One day she said to her mother “Our lives would’ve been easier if we had a washroom in our house. We have to face a lot of problems. When we go out in the fields there are several men present around the fields. We have to face a lot of embarrassment and humiliation because of their presence.” Her mother told her that her father was unable to earn anything and their only source of income was a few farm animals they had.

Rimsha told her mother “Don’t worry! If I am able to complete my education, it will bring a positive change in our situation and one of the first things we will do after that would be to construct a toilet in our house so that we don’t have to face such problems anymore.”
This section presents the stories as interpreted by the young WASH activists of the interactive workshop in understanding the impact of climate change and environment on WASH and how it relates to human condition.
Shehrbano has to carry grass on a daily basis. But there is no path to walk on. She has to wade through the water to get from one place to another. She has her cousin along in this picture.
This is Nasreen; she is fetching water from a creek. Nasreen fetches drinking water from the river. She takes nine round trips of the creek on a daily basis, five in the morning and four in the evening. Nasreen told me that she could not study because of working all day and a lot of her time gets wasted in fetching water. She said, “The place I fetch water from has dirty water. There is no clean water at my home, so we have to drink that dirty water.”
This is Hanifa, she is 25 years old. She is fetching water from the stream. There are 23 people at Hanifa’s house. She goes to the stream every day to bring water and takes nine round trips throughout the day. She puts a lot of effort into water collection. Hanifa says that the stream is quite far from her home so it is a tough job for her and even then they have to drink the dirty water from the stream. I asked Hanifa, “When you know that this water is dirty then why do you drink it?” She replied, “We drink dirty water because we do not have clean water in our village, so we have no choice but to drink it out of helplessness.”

“we have no choice but to drink it out of helplessness.”
Nabyat washes utensils with water she gets from the stream. Nabyat says that fetching water from the stream is not easy because the water level in the stream is very low. ‘We use the stream water for washing utensils. If we wash them with lesser water, they do not get clean enough’.

The water she washes her child with is saline, but she says it is okay. ‘We can bathe with saline water but what should we do for drinking? We cannot buy drinking water all our lives.’ Nabyat says that her whole day is spent fetching water. ‘I get tired, and I don’t get time for other work. If we get the water issue solved we would be really happy.’

She also pours water into the mosque’s tank so that people can use it for ablution.

She makes ten round trips to the stream, and the mosque’s water tank barely gets half-filled.

Nabyat said, “Due to the time spent getting water all day long I cannot do my home chores; I have a small child for whom there is no one to take care of. I have a daughter too who gets tired, fetching water. But what can we do? Filling the mosque’s water tank is also important. I also work at Peersahib’s (people who are considered of a higher religious and social order) home, so they buy me drinking water. If there were a clean water tap in our village, I could find time to sew clothes.”

Nabyat wants to have the availability of clean water at her home. She desires to have a water tap which could give fresh and sweet water for drinking.
“We can bathe with saline water but what should we do for drinking? We cannot buy drinking water all our lives.”
These are five kids. Their names are Ali, Muhammad, Zahid, Shahid, Sajid and the girl’s name is Humera. The girl goes to school and helps her mother with house chores as well. The boys first fetch water from the stream in the morning and after that, they go to cut wood. They say that they cannot concentrate enough on their studies. They cut wood and sell it. They say, they do this because no one in their home works for a living.

“...they cannot concentrate enough on their studies”
Amjad Hussain is an 18-year-old boy. Apart from being a painter, he is a tailor as well. Amjad lives in village, Haji Noor Muhammad Thaeem. He has recently passed the 8th grade and has secured admission in 9th grade. Along with his studies, he is a painter and a tailor too. He says that he is very happy doing these two jobs. He is now working as a tailor because Eid (a muslim festival) is coming, so he has to sew a lot of clothes. He is a little worried about it, but he is happy to make a living.
Shabjahaan likes playing jump-rope. But she does not get enough time to play because she has to do the home chores, bring water from the creek and give time to her studies. If she does not do the home chores, her family gets angry.

Most of Shabjahaan’s time gets wasted in fetching water. She says that she takes six rounds of the stream in a day, three in the morning and three in the evening. She faces a lot of problems in fetching water because to get clean drinking water, she has to go to the creek’s upper portion where no one is washing clothes or taking a bath. Shabjahaan’s neck aches because of carrying water on her head.

While fetching water in the mornings, she gets late for school. She says that if they had clean and sweet (drinkable) water in their home, then she can save her valuable time. She wishes to spend her time well because she is at the usual age of studying and playing.
The village kids are playing in the dirty water. This is village, Ahmed Abad. All of the kids here play in this creek. Women wash their clothes and utensils in the same creek and the water gets unclean. Most of the time the children swallow this water (while playing) unintentionally and then they get sick. The only cleaner water in their village is the stream, but children are not allowed to go there because some women and kids have drowned there. The kids say that if they had clean water in their village, then their health would have been better.
Anwar Mallah, 40, goes fishing along the river at 6am every morning. He sells his catch to customers along the bank or in the nearby city of Gharo for 100 rupees (72p), per fish. When he finishes work, Anwar shops in Gharo for the household items needed by his mother, before returning home to her and his children. There are six of them in his household. Anwar’s mother makes food and they all eat together. He washes his children’s hands after dinner and gives them water to drink.

Pollution from nearby Karachi is seeping into the Indus Delta and many fishermen fear that this is causing a depletion of fish supplies.
"He washes his children’s hands after dinner and gives them water to drink."
Benazir is 9 years old. Benazir’s home is far from a hand pump, where she goes to fetch water from. She lives in the village, Haji Abdullah Mir Hajar. There are 10 people in Benazir’s home. Benazir does not go to school. She works at home all day long so she cannot take out time for studies. Her time is wasted in doing home chores as no one else works at her home.

Without access to clean water at home women often spend hours and hours walking miles to collect water. As a result girls often miss out on vital hours at school and sometimes drop out altogether, meaning their future opportunities are limited.
Her name is Gul Nisa and she is 28 years old. She goes to her neighbour’s house to bring water. Gul Nisa lives in the village, Noor Muhammad Thaeem. She has brought her sister along to fetch water. She does not have access to clean water at her own home so she goes to her neighbours to bring some. Her neighbour does not live near her house, so she has to go quite far. Gul Nisa said that she feels exhausted because of this work.
His name is Allah Rakho and he is 21 years old. There are nine people in his home. Allah Rakho is fetching water from the stream which he sells at a restaurant. This is how Allah Rakho earns and runs his household. I asked him how much time does it take to fill water. He said that it takes half an hour but he feels exhausted in the end.
His name is Arif and he is 61 years old. There are nine family members in his home. Arif grows rice in his farm. I asked Arif, ‘In which month do you usually grow rice?’ He replied, ‘We grow rice in May, and this crop takes three months to produce. It needs a lot of water and requires a lot of effort.’ He told me that they start cutting the crop in August. I asked, ‘How much do you earn from this?’ He answered, ‘I earn 5000 rupees a month with which I run my household.'
This section outlines brief profiles and perspectives of the young students of the Participatory Photography Workshop. They hail from schools spread across various districts in Pakistan where WaterAid has been working with partners and communities to bring clean water and sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness to the vulnerable. The interest to engage through interactive learning is demonstrated through the stories and photographs captured by these young activists.
Farzana
Age: 12
Class: 8
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“I wish to become a doctor in the future. My father says that if I get good grades he will let me study further. I promised him that I will work hard to live up to his expectations.

I like growing plants. When my father went to Rawalpindi, he brought some plants which I grew in our home. I water them daily and take care of them.”

Misbah
Age: 13
Class: 7
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“I was very glad when I got selected for this workshop. We learned how to take photos and also how to write stories during the project.”

I like birds a lot. We have some in our home as well and I take care of them. After completing studies, I want to join the army and work for my country.”

Stories captured
- Barriers to hygiene, 10
- Muddy water impacts health, 12
- Salma and Shahla’s fight against poverty, 14
- When the floods came, 16
- Barriers to sanitation at home, 18
Nagina

Age: 13  
Class 8  
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“I tried my best to do good photography. I hope that when people see my photos, they will like them.”

Rimsha

Age: 12  
Class: 8  
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“My favourite subject is English and I want to become a teacher in the future. I will teach the kids who cannot afford education. I will pay fee from my salary for the students who cannot afford to do so.”

Stories captured

- Having a decent toilet sounds normal, 22
- Saving to construct a toilet, 23

Stories captured

- Ease of a girls’ friendly toilet, 19
- Cleanliness is next to godliness, 20
- Handwashing is a way of life, 21
Saima
Age: 12
Class: 7
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“It is my wish to become a doctor and treat the poor, especially the ill ones in my village. I plan to study and work hard to progress in my life.”

Sonia
Age: 13
Class: 8
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“Once someone called me a doctor. I want to make this dream come true. I want to spend my life helping the poor. People value wealth, but I think true wealth is education.”

Stories captured
Aleena likes to keep it clean, 24
No more discomfort, 25
Girls’ friendly toilet, 25
Zehra doesn’t have a choice, 26

Story captured
Story of a farmer, 28
Sonia
Age: 13
Class: 8
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“I live in a small village. It is not as clean as it should be. People don’t keep it so as they are not that educated, they don’t know much about cleanliness and hygiene. There are only a few people in the village who have washrooms.”

Uzma
Age: 11
Class: 6
Muzaffargarh, Punjab

“The pictures that I took at first were not very impressive. But later on I learnt to take good pictures with right angle.

I want to become an officer and make my father proud. I want to work for my country and also help the poor.”

Story captured
Apiring for a toilet at home, 30

Story captured
Learning to handwash, 29
Aqib
Age: 16
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

Aqib described what it’s like growing up in a warmer climate with water shortages:

“I have listened to old people [talk about climate change] about how extreme the weather is turning these days. I listen but I can’t relate, because this is the climate my generation is used to.”

Farooq
Age: 15
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

“My father and mother have always stood by me and fulfilled my wishes since childhood. They taught me and as a result I am a bright student today. I am good in all subjects especially in maths. I wish to become an engineer in the future to make my parent’s dreams come true.”

Story captured
Wading through water, 34

Stories captured
Learning to build a future, 40
A talented boy, 41
Khalil
Age: 14
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

“There are 13 people in my home. I have four brothers and two sisters. After school, I go to an academy to learn English, which is my favourite subject. I also like learning about computer. I was very happy to join this workshop as I could learn how to use a camera to take photos. This a new and interesting experience for me”

Kulsoom
Age: 15
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

“My father is a driver and my mother works at home. She does sewing. I live in a joint family with my cousins and aunts. There are around 30 people who live in a compound. We are five brothers and two sisters. I love my grandfather and grandmother. Our village is very beautiful. I spend most of my time with friends. I love to eat biryani.”

Story captured
Fishing for hope, 44

Stories captured
We drink from the creek, 36
Living a tough life, 37
Laila

Age: 14
Class: 7
Thatta, Sindh

“We are 13 in our family. In our village girls are not usually sent to attend schools, except those like me who get permission. My parents have always supported me. They say that education is a third eye of human beings. My favorite subject is English and I want to be a doctor. I have two sisters and three brothers.”

Mir Jahan

Age: 16
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

“I want to become a teacher because we don’t have a female teacher in this village. My teacher comes from another village. My school is nice and clean. I enjoy spending time with friends. I like going to school. I am proud that my mother is educated and people in my village seek her advice.”

Story captured

Clean water is a blessing, 38

Stories captured

Surviving a childhood, 42
A deep dive in dirty waters, 43
Riaz
Age: 14
Class: 7
Thatta, Sindh

“I have taken very good photos of my village and of the people in the village. Now when I look at the photos I feel very good. I would like to become a successful businessman so that I can work and support my family.”

Suman
Age: 15
Class: 8
Thatta, Sindh

“My father is a school teacher. I have 3 sisters and a brother. After school, I help my mother in house work. I do my school work during the night. My mother loves me a lot. We live together happily.”

Story captured
Growing rice in water, 49

Stories captured
Daily grind of a girlhood, 46
Right to clean drinking water, 47
Water for living, 48
We believe that image is a powerful medium to tell a story. WaterAid uses participatory photography as a visual literacy tool to creatively engage people from the local communities.

We brought together school students from the local villages to practice photography as a learning and self-advocacy tool, and tell stories on WASH and related areas.
Two Participatory Photography Workshops were held on ‘WASH’ and ‘Climate Change’ through indoor learning exercises on photography and location shoots.
The participants were taught camera skills, captioning images and telling photo stories. The interactive workshops also provided inclusive spaces to boost confidence and self-esteem of students.
The exercise engaged the participants to relate creatively with the issues on WASH and tell their own stories.
Images created through workshops were displayed through photo-exhibitions for building awareness among students and broader communities.
The workshops offered opportunity for debate and discussion around an issue by seeing it from the lens of the participant.
The learning experience helped to break down boundaries and engaged students to communicate and interact, sharing their views on WASH.
The methodology offered an opportunity to voice, explore and communicate personal experiences, becoming mindful of the local environment and associated issues on WASH.
Help us reach everyone, everywhere with safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030

Find out more at http://www.wateraid.org/where-we-work/page/pakistan