# Solar Energy Delivers Safe Water Across Afghanistan

UNICEF supports the upgrading of solar water system in Laghman, Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS)

**Project information;**

Project Name: Upgrading of solar water supply system

Location: Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa – Mehtarlam city- Laghman Province

Project start & End date: 1st Jul 2022 to 30th Nov 2022, duration: 5 Months

Project Beneficiaries: 3200 Families, 22400 individuals, Male: 6048, Female: 6048, Children's: 12096.

Fuel prices have raised since the conflict escalated in Afghanistan, and as diesel-powered water pumps cease to operate, drought has begun to affect the entire country.

To reduce communities' reliance on fuel and provide sustainable water to local communities, UNICEF supports the solarization of water supply Laghman, Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS)



Figure 1: Sultan Ghazi BaBa Tapa UWASS Solar System

## After Years of Suffering, a Dream Come True

"We would transport water from distant swamps on the backs of donkeys and heads of women and children, and this stagnant water was causing a lot of diseases," recalls Eng. Ajmal, 48, from the village of Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS).



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“Sadly, in Laghman province of Afghanistan Women’s and children have to travel several Meters and kilometers to get water for their families, here in Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa village not seen Water Well at the Sultan Ghazi BaBa Area, the peoples faced with a big water problems “ here exists the Water Supply System but that system not provide watersat all time to fulfill the need of peoples Because the Water Supply System work by Generator Electricity that’s need for more Oils to provide more time waters. The serviceror People haven’t sufficient Oils for it, and the Generators are elder and Every day the machine breaks down, The peoples in Sultan Ghazi Baba Area Buy the Water from Water Sale Tankers and some people travel to several kilometers to Bring water and Safe water for families and most ofthe time We do not succeed to get safe water”, I am Eng. Ajmal 48 Age man Live in SultanGhazi Baba Area, saying “ my brothers and my son three days a week travel to very far area to fetch water, Bringing water from a distant place hinders them from going to school”.

With support from the UNICEF, COAR has implemented the solarization of many urban water projects in Afghanistan in 2022, benefiting over 22,000 people. For each project, COAR teams have provided and installed electric submersible pumps powered by a solar energy system. In total, over 392 solar panels are now supporting to run of submersible pumps to supply water to communities.



A solar panel installed in Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS).



*A pump used in the solarization project in Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS).*

“The pumps stopped due to high fuel prices, and this project brought life back to people who suffered so much in fetching water. Water now reaches homes in sufficient quantities,” says Eng. Ajmal, 48, from the Village of Mehtarlam, Sultan Ghazi Baba Tapa (UWASS).

“No one imagined the difficulty of the situation before this project,” he says. “The site was equipped with 392 solar panels to start pumping water. Yet, had UNICEF not intervened, many people would have been displaced from the City. Now that we have water, we can dream of a health center, midwives, and gynecologists.”

## Mehtarlam City: Easier Access to Safer Water

Shafiullah, 30-year-old, from Mehtarlam City, shares the same difficulties as people all over the country. “We could not afford to buy water due to high fuel prices,” he remembers, “and transporting water ourselves occupied our minds and consumed our time, even when it was not drinkable. The situation changed after the project, and water became available in our homes.