# WHERE FAITH SPEAKS: PAKISTAN

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# Interface between WASH Actors and Religious Institutions

- Balochistan has the least WASH facilities and awareness
- WASH actors like GIZ, UNICEF, BRSP etc. work on WASH in Schools, Health Care Centers and Religious Institutions
- Much needed: close coordination among all actors to work together to achieve SDG 6.2
- Religious leaders raise awareness among public masses, example: response to Covid-19
- Development sector/NGOs started involving religious actors in their WASH interventions.

# Focus on hygiene in Islam

- The 2ⁿᵈ revelation was surah Al-Mudassir (purify your cloth and keep away from filth)
- Among the 5 objectives of Islamic shariah (life, wealth, respect, faith and intellect) protection of life is the most important one. Which is constantly exposed to infections and hand hygiene is the single most effective way to prevent such infections
- Clean hands help keep your food, drinking water, dress, body and place clean
- Influence of religion on hygiene practices and cleanliness

FOUR OBLIGATIONS
Allah says; *"O believers, when you stand up to pray, wash your faces, and your hands up to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet up to the ankles. If you are defiled, purify yourselves…"* (5:6)

[ يا أيها الذين آمنوا إذا قمتم إلى الصلاة فاغسلوا وجوهكم وأيديكم إلى المرافق وامسحوا برؤوسكم وأرجلكم إلى الكعبين، وإن كنتم جنباً فاطّهروا] (المائدة 6).

# Religion towards achieving SDG 6.2: Lessons Learnt and Success Stories

- Due to speeches on WASH by religious leaders, now community takes special care of their personal hygiene.

- Due to the involvement of religious leaders, the religious groups are also open to listen to NGO/INGOs

→ Religious leaders act as facilitators between different stakeholders

- Covid-19: there is a special attention towards religious leaders and Hand Washing is given due consideration both in Islam and society.

- WASH interventions are now allowed and accepted in **Madrassas** (Islamic schools) and Mosques

→ WASH Actors should involve Religious Leaders for further outreach

# Bottlenecks are still there

1. Religious Leaders are not taken on board at time of program design
2. Cultural constraint and Social Lifestyles and Values
3. Lack of Information in the community
4. Lack of WASH facilities in Schools, Health Care Facilities and Madrassas

**We need to work together to close these gaps!**