

USAID ENERGY POLICY PROGRAM

SUCCESS STORY

REPOWERING PAKISTAN

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USAID | PAKISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Repowering Pakistan

USAID is extending US \$ 16.5 million for rehabilitation of Tarbela power plant



“Seeing the restored capacity at Tarbela is a true payoff of our hard work. The months spent in planning and monitoring the activities have resulted in more electricity for us Pakistanis.” Re-marked Chief Engineer Tarbela.

The elated shouts of the engineers echoed throughout the Tarbela Power Station as they celebrated the return of 128 MW of power generation capacity that had been lost over time. Located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province of Pakistan, Tarbela Dam is the world’s largest earth and rock filled dam. It was built decades ago with a power generation capacity of 3,478 MW, but over the years its capacity had declined to 3,223 MWs due to gaps in repair and maintenance.

Pakistan has been suffering from an acute power crisis leading the country into riots and an economic crunch. The ability to generate 128 MW of power could do much to alleviate the energy shortage in the country. To address this, USAID undertook a major assistance program to support the repair and rehabilitation of the Tarbela Power Station. A team of USAID experts made a number of visits to Tarbela and assessed what could be done on a short-term, immediate basis to restore the plant’s lost capacity. The assessment that was initiated by USAID turned into a tangible plan in 2010 when the US Government announced assistance of \$16.5 million for rehabilitating the Tarbela power plant to restore its lost generation capacity. The costs of rehabilitating the existing power plant will be many times less than what would have been needed to build a new power plant.

USAID experts under the Energy Policy Program (EPP) made repeated visits to the power plant and in partnership with plant managers reviewed and, where necessary, revised equipment requirements and time frames for replacement of critical parts, such as the windings for three large generators and dewatering pumps. The process gained momentum with all partners fully engaged in each step of the process. Within a span of 24 months, with the continuous technical involvement of EPP’s team of local and expatriate experts, the rehabilitation work was successfully completed and the Tarbela power plant was once again producing power near its peak capacity.

Working together USAID and the Government of Pakistan have charted a new chapter of economic progress and political stability for the people of Pakistan. Now nearly 1.2 million Pakistanis have access to reliable power and less frequent power interruptions.