Muhammad Ilyas lost both his legs during the 2005 earthquake while saving his daughter in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Him and his family currently live in Farash Town, Islamabad and it is very difficult for him to access safe drinking water for the family. Even with his modified wheelchair, he cannot make it all the way to the government water tanker easily and even the nearest water filtration plant is many kilometers away. However, the water filtration plant installed under the Australia-Pakistan Water Security Initiative (APWASI) has a ramp, allowing people on wheelchairs to easily access the water taps. Furthermore, hygienic water containers have been provided to households to fill, carry and store water. Ilyas says that with this water bottle, he can easily carry water home which lasts one whole day for the entire family. Before this he would have to carry multiple small utensils to fill up with water which made them all the more difficult to carry owing to his physical limitation.

Access to clean drinking water is a fundamental human right, yet millions of people worldwide are deprived of this basic necessity. Marginalized communities, including those in rural areas or informal settlements, lack access to clean drinking water, and disabled individuals are the most disadvantaged in this regard. To tackle this problem, WWF-Pakistan and Australian Aid have prioritized disabled individuals residing in Farash Town, Islamabad and James Town, Rawalpindi for Water Sensitive Cities initiatives under the Australia-Pakistan Water Security Initiative (APWASI).

**Beneficiary Story**

**Enhancing accessibility and inclusion for disabled individuals under APWASI**

1. Disability surveys were conducted to assess WASH-related issues for disabled individuals.
2. Construction of ramps at water filtration unit sites.
3. Inclusion of disabled persons in awareness sessions held within their communities.
4. Representation of disabled individuals in community-based organizations (CBOs).