

**Script**

You're watching UNICEF Television.

Every last drop of fresh water is precious in the little village of Dara, in the central Asian Republic of Tajikistan. So precious that it's a major pre-occupation for its 1700 inhabitants.

Dara's major source of water is the river – a river so dirty, so saline that you can't drink it, irrigate or get anything clean with it. It's fit only for livestock.

And it's the same story for all the villages in this area – a total of seven thousand people.

Yet Dara is a mere ten-minute drive from the centre of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe – where there's no water shortage at all. They keep getting promises of water – but they've no idea if it'll ever come.

**SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Hamroqul Siddikov, School Director:**

There's no fresh water near our village and the government doesn't allow us to take water from Dushanbe because it has 9-storey apartments, the water won't go to the top floors. 36.35 and there are no Government funds to bore for underground water.

Fresh water became an issue only after the Soviet Union collapsed and along with it, the area's canals. The result was a surge in serious illness striking particularly at women and children, like 3-month old Omeena, who's got severe diarrhea.

**SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Muharrama Ahmedova, Village Nurse:**

The lack of safe water is the cause of diseases the include 23.38 diarrhea, typhoid fever, malaria, anaemia – and these are just some of the diseases we deal with because of a lack of water.

Villagers do what they can to safeguard their children – but even the school has no water tank and so nowhere to wash, nothing to drink.

**Shotlist**

1. Close up, water dripping from tap
2. Close up, water dripping into bucket
3. Wide shot, woman walking to water tanker
4. Med shot, woman approaching tap, filling bucket
5. Wide shot, river running through
6. Med shot, river
7. Med shot, boy on donkey approaching river
8. Close up, buckets in river
9. Med shot, boys at river filling containers
10. Close up, donkey
11. Close up, filling containers with river water
12. Wide shot, cars on Dushanbe street
13. Med shot, beers on café table with fountain behind
14. Wide shot, city fountain
15. Med shot, fountain
16. Wide shot, little girl walking on village road
17. Close up, girl playing in dirt
18. **SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Hamroqul Siddikov, School Director:**

There's no fresh water near our village and the government doesn't allow us to take water from Dushanbe because it has 9-storey apartments, the water won't go to the top floors

19. Wide shot, pan of dry canal
20. Med shot, woman carrying baby in health clinic
21. **SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Muharrama Ahmedova, Village Nurse:**

The lack of safe water is the cause of diseases the include 23.38 diarrhea, typhoid fever, malaria, anaemia – and these are just some of the diseases we deal with because of a lack of water.

22. Various, school room
23. **SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Hamroqul Siddikov, School Director:**

School children have to bring boiled water in plastic bottles and there are 245 children and 14 teachers. The toilet doesn't meet today's standards

24. Wide shot, latrine
25. Med shot, latrine
26. Wide shot, tanker truck
27. Close up, driver
28. Med shot, boys sitting

SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Hamroqul Siddikov, School Director:

School children have to bring boiled water in plastic bottles and there are 245 children and 14 teachers. The toilet doesn't meet today's standards

For those who can afford it, the arrival of Kurbonali is always a welcome moment – the safest water comes in a tanker – but at a cost.

A tank that'll last a family about two weeks costs around 12 dollars, but in a village long-haunted by poverty and unemployment, that's out of reach of many.

SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Ahmad Saidov, villager:

People with money can afford to buy water and they have tanks to fill – but people without money haven't got tanks and can't afford the water anyway.

SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Sanovbar Saidova, villager:

This rain water we use for everything ... for drinking, for making meals, for washing clothes, for everything.

Sanovbar lives in an enclave of four families who can't afford to buy tank water.

SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Sanovbar Saidova, villager:

The upper tank we use for drinking and this one we use for animals. Look at how many bugs there are in the water there's no water that's why we are forced to use it. There are a lot of things that are affected by the lack of water such as diarrhea, stomach worms and very bad skin rashes on their faces.

SOUNDBITE (English) Hongwei Gao, UNICEF, Tajikistan::

safe drinking water is particularly important for children because they are less developed and they need safe drinking water to grow up and their health and their quality of education really requires safe drinking water within easy access.

The people of Dara have been promised a clean water supply sometime soon ... but it's never arrived.

And until it does, Sanovbar and her children will continue

29. Med shot, boy

30. Close up, hooking hose to tanker

31. Med shot, water coming out of hose

32. Wide shot, water tanker

33. Wide shot, home cistern being filled with children watching

34. Wide shot, village

35. SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Ahmad Saidov, villager:

People with money can afford to buy water and they have tanks to fill – but people without money haven't got tanks and can't afford the water anyway.

36. WS, woman at cistern

37. Close up, rain water in cistern

38. SOUNDBITE (Tajik) Sanovbar Saidova, villager: This rain water we use for everything ... for drinking, for making meals, for washing clothes, for everything. The upper tank we use for drinking and this one we use for animals. Look at how many bugs there are in the water there's no water that's why we are forced to use it. There are a lot of things that are affected by the lack of water such as diarrhea, stomach worms and very bad skin rashes on their faces.

39. SOUNDBITE (English) Hongwei Gao, UNICEF, Tajikistan: Safe drinking water is particularly important for children because they are less developed and they need safe drinking water to grow up and their health and their quality of education really requires safe drinking water within easy access.

40. Wide shot, river in concrete bed

41. Close up, trash in river

42. Various, women carrying water from river

to suffer the sort of diseases so easily avoided when people have access to one of life's basic necessities ... good, clean, life-giving water.

For UNICEF Television, this is Peter George in Tajikistan.

4:20

**Script**

Same as above

**Shotlist**

Same as above