



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Tajikistan

Country Setting

- The breakup of the former Soviet Union resulted in independence for Tajikistan in 1991.
- Soon after independence, civil war (till 1997) led to a severe economic depression and damage to infrastructure.
- Drought in 2000 and 2001 affected crop production – causing a food deficit – and availability of drinking water.
- 83 per cent of the population lives below the international poverty line.
- 95 per cent of children under one year are immunized; 38 per cent of children under five are stunted.

WES Sector Setting

- There is a growing Government commitment for rural water supply but a lack of resources. The national budget for rural water supply works for 2003 is only \$200,000.
- Boreholes, wells and shallow handpumps are common throughout Tajikistan.
- There are fiscal shortages, and routine maintenance of the systems is in disarray. There is a tariff system that does not depend on actual consumption, but collection is very low, only 20 per cent.
- A shortage of water purification materials means only 29 per cent of water passes through a purification process. In 2001 and 2002 nearly 50 per cent of test results did not meet standards.
- Electric power supply is erratic and the grid is not well maintained.
- 51 per cent of schools have access to safe water and 90 per cent of schools have latrines.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	6,245
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	118
Total adult literacy rate (%)	99

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	93	71
Rural	47	47
Total	58	53

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion through Schools, covering 200 schools in 12 districts.
- Construction of community water points near schools.
- Establishment of sustainable management structures and processes, reaching remote rural areas; community-based water quality monitoring using H2S strips.
- Improving monitoring of the quality of rural water sources and ensuring that relevant data reaches end-users and decision-makers through GIS system.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF support has helped create rural school water supply and sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in 600 schools in Khatlon and Leninabad provinces.
- A holistic approach to sanitation and hygiene promotion was designed and adopted.
- Alternatives like deep water handpumps have been accepted by national authorities.
- UNICEF plays a lead role with sector donors, advocating for safe water, capacity building and community participation.