



Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change (WICC) National Water Resources Management Project (NWRM)



Rationale

Uzbekistan is the most vulnerable country in terms of water availability in Central Asia, as it has the largest irrigated area and population, while only 20% of water originates in the country. The increasing water deficit - due to population growth and climate change - is a factor that challenges Uzbekistan's development.

To address the water shortage, the new government initiated the reform of the water sector, fostering the efficient use of existing water resources by applying Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles and introducing water-saving technologies, digitalization, and market mechanisms.

Promoting the IWRM approach remains the basis for SDC's engagement in the water infrastructure and climate change activities in Central Asia. The project is designed as a logical extension of the Swiss Water, Infrastructure, and Climate Change Domain portfolio, building on its key results.

Objectives and activities

The project supports the water sector reform by developing an IWRM-based strategic framework that ensures equitable and fair water distribution among all water users. This allows the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) to better manage water resources leading to increased water productivity and improved livelihoods of the rural population in Uzbekistan. The overall project goal is to improve the rural population's livelihoods through integrated water resource management in Uzbekistan.

Country:

Uzbekistan

Duration (2 phases):

2015 – 2023

Total Budget:

CHF 7,45 Mio.

Partners:

Ministry of Water Resources;
Ministry of Higher Education,
Science and Innovation;
Information Analytical and
Resource Centre of the
Ministry of Water Resources
(IARC);
GEF Agency IFAS

Executing Agency:

GEF Agency IFAS

Outcomes and envisaged results

- The MoWR implements a comprehensive strategic and regulatory framework based on IWRM principles.
- Farmers and water management organizations use water resources efficiently and sustainably.

Accordingly, the **following outputs are expected to be achieved**

1. The strategic and regulatory IWRM framework is developed and approved.
2. The Information Analytical Resource Centre (IARC) is empowered as the driver for implementing the IWRM framework.
3. The integrated National Water Management Information System is implemented.
4. The Rayon Irrigation Departments are empowered to act as an interface between government water consumers.
5. The Water Scheduling System and the Drainage Information System are established and integrated into the National Water Management Information System.
6. The technical capacities of water management organizations and farmers are strengthened.
7. Farmers apply water-saving technologies.

Target groups

Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ministry of Water Resources of Karakalpak Republic, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, Information Analytical and Resource Centre of the Ministry of Water Resources, 12 Basin Administrations of Irrigation Systems, 13 Ameliorative Expeditions, 155 Rayon Irrigation Departments, 9 vocational colleges, Farmers and other water consumers nationwide.

Key results achieved so far

- Approval of the IWRM based Water Concept 2030 and the Water Strategy 2021-2023 Draft Water Code;
- Approval of National Water Management Information System concept, development of its main elements and capacity building of staff;
- Equipping 156 Rayon Irrigation Departments with tools and training their staff in efficient water management;
- Approval of the new course and teaching materials on water saving technologies, establishment of demo plots and laboratories in 9 MoWR colleges;
- Development of the TOMCHI Mobile Application to inform and provide feedback a mechanism to water users on water saving technologies;
- Implementation of gender mainstreaming activities as per findings of the water sector's gender assessment.

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