



## Water Management and Climate Change (WICC)

### Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Uzbekistan (RWSSP)



#### Rationale

In rural areas of Fergana Valley, the population has a limited access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Thus, water borne and hygiene related diseases are a public health threat, in particular for infants and children below the age of five. Existing drinking water supply systems are old and need rehabilitation. There is a need for further improvement of safe drinking water supply in the rural areas through attraction of investments from donor countries. There is also a strong need for an improved management of those water systems.

The model of community-based water management was successfully implemented in the Fergana Valley and Syrdarya province from 2003 to 2018.

#### Objectives and activities

The project supported improvement of living and health conditions of rural communities through enhancing access to safe drinking water and promoting the adoption of better hygiene and sanitation practices among population in rural areas of Uzbekistan.

In 2019 the government endorsed the Swiss model by a presidential decree and incorporated the model in the governmental WASH. The recognition of the Swiss project paves the way to scaling up of the model at national level, demonstrating the relevance of the Swiss model. This model is being scaled up across the country under the framework of the State Programs “Obod Mahalla” and “Obod Qishloq” financed by the Uzbek Government in collaboration with IFIs.

#### Country:

Uzbekistan

#### Duration:

2013 - 2018

#### Partners:

Provincial and municipal authorities;

Ministry of Housing and Communal services

#### Implementing agency:

International Secretariat for Water (ISW)

For historical reasons, centralised water supply and management are prevailing, and alternative solutions have not been sought by the authorities. Thanks to donors' interventions, among which SDC's project is one of the more successful, the debate about decentralisation, tariffs and outsourcing of water management is continues.

### **Target group**

Rural communities of Fergana Valley and Syrdarya province.

### **Key results achieved**

- 24 villages representing 90'000 inhabitants have been supplied with drinking water
- Other 50'000 inhabitants were connected to a safe drinking water supply until the end of the of the project.
- Applying the model of decentralised water management, the trainings and capacity building activities were organized, applicable tariff schemes introduced. The model for operation and maintenance of drinking water organisations in 10 villages in the Syrdarya province was established.
- 158,000 people have access to safe drinking water and established DWOs are managing water systems in a sustainable way and reporting regularly to the population.
- The RWSSP model is scaled up country wide based on a presidential decree.

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