

AD HOC / MISSION REPORT

Subject: Mission to TAJIKISTAN- September 15th to 22nd, 2006

Author: Lictevout Elisabeth, Regional Watsan Expert, RSO Amman

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1. BACKGROUND TO THE EVENT.

This is the first mission to Tajikistan by the Regional Watsan Expert since appointed at the RSO in Amman early December 2006. The mission is inscribed within the Annual Work Plan of the RSO, and aims to review and analyze the phasing out strategy and disaster preparedness mainstreaming in the water and sanitation sector. The results expected to achieve the objective were:

- Weight up pros and cons of the phasing out strategy
- Assess suitability of projects vs. context.
- Recommendations for mainstreaming DP into watsan operations

Objectives, results and schedule for the mission (September 2006) have been set up by ECHO CO in Tajikistan during the visit of the RSO Head of Office in March 2006.

3.5. FIELD VISIT / UNDP / WATER PROJECT IN KURGAN TEPPE

A field visit has been carried out with UNDP field engineer to water supply project implemented in 2004 in a very remote, mountainous and desert area. UNDP installed a electricity-run pumping station in the river down the village, to lift the water to an elevated reservoir, then distributed through public tapstands and some households connections. The project is still functioning well and beneficiaries are highly satisfied with the service. It is encouraging to see such committed community to the operation and maintenance of their system, especially a system run by electricity. However, there is a reason for that: the system is small (short pipeline from the pumping station and reservoir), and there is no water (no electricity) during few month of the year (winter), therefore there is no payment. That makes the annual contribution very low. The project has not only be important because of improving access to water (therefore improving the quantity; the quality remains the same) for domestic purpose but also because it allowed people to have kitchen garden and grow vegetable. A dam construction threatens now the pumping station, which need to be displaced.

4. UNDP / WATER PROJECT IN KURGAN TEPPE

The village's beneficiary of the project is located near and above a river. The quality of the river is good according to analysis thanks to the fact that the area is uninhabited. People, before the project, were fetching water in the river down the village. UNDP installed a pumping station run with electricity to lift the water to an elevated reservoir, then distributed through public tapstands. Some households are directly connected to the distribution pipe. Given the low and irregular electricity supply, the pump works two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon. In winter, there is no water supply because there is no electricity (2 to 4 months). However, it doesn't seem to be a big problem as the village is covered by snow which is used to satisfy water needs. The water operator informed us that they face only one problem with a valve and will soon replace it when they gather the sufficient amount of money. The system has two engines so the problem has no affected so far the supply.

A committee was created and trained. Fees are still collected on a monthly basis and the majority of the household pay: 1.25 Somoni for public tapstand and 2.50 Somoni if household connection (respectively 0.4 USD and 0.8 USD). However, this contribution is not sufficient to pay the full electricity bills. The committee manage to pay part of the bill so the company accept to continue the supply. The committee is therefore in a constant debt.

The project has not only be important because of improving access to water (therefore improving the quantity; the quality remains the same) for domestic purpose but also because it allowed people to have kitchen garden and grow vegetable. Indeed, a lot of green can be seen in the village, which do not exist before the project according to UNDP and ECHO staff.

Villages and households are very clean, except the surrounding of the tapstand with mud and stagnant water around because there is no drainage. Every house has a toilet (pit latrine) built the farthest possible from the house. When the latrine is full they build another one. Each house has also a room for shower. The women stated that they are buying soap, available in the village's shop.

A big project of dam hydraulic power station construction down stream is on going. The village will not be flooded but the pumping station will be. Therefore, it will be necessary to re-locate the pumping station in a higher location. The committee should seek Government support for this issue.