

Brief on WB / DFID project 'rural Water Supply & Sanitation'

Issyk Kul, Naryn, Talas

Background:

Kyrgyzstan 198.000 km²

5.200.000 inhabitants

7 Oblasts: Chui, Issyk Kul, Talas, Naryn, Jalalabad, Osh, Batken

Capital: Bishkek – 600.000 people

GDP per Capita – approx. 340 Euros

Average Income – approx. 50 Euros

Income mainly: Agriculture, Minerals (Gold), Hydropower, Tourism, Trade

Religions: 75 % Sunni Muslims, 20 % Orthodox, 5 % others

After the dissolution of the Soviet-Union and the independence of Kyrgyzstan the maintenance of rural water supply systems was not sustained, this mainly due to lack of organisation and resources. Therefore these disintegrated; also necessary extension works, required by the enlargement of villages, were not implemented. Such a system consists typically out of a source (filtration, borehole, spring-catchment); a device to bridge peak-usage and to maintain the necessary pressure (water-tower or reservoir); a network, mainly consisting of asbestos-cement pipes, in which the water is being transported with minimal pressure, and public standpipes ('Kalunkas')

The Kyrgyz government received a loan from the World Bank in order to rehabilitate and extend abovementioned systems, also villages, which didn't have a network during Soviet times, should receive this. Because the loan was not sufficient to implement the necessary project-works on one side, and on the other to pay for the stipulated consultancy services, the British government (DfID) took over the financing of the consultancy.

Organisation, Concept and Implementation of the Project:

On Kyrgyz level the implementing unit is the Department for Rural Water Supply (DRWS) within the Ministry of Agriculture and its Oblast branches; the consultancy is executed by the Danish company Carl Bro in collaboration with – the also Danish firm – COWI, and the British NGO Intrac. The consultant employs approx. 70 national and 2 international staff, supported by short-time deployments of other international experts.

The project started February 2002, it consists of several, in parallel running components:

- enhancing the capacity of DRWS and its Oblast branches
- organisation of villagers in CDWUUs (Community Drinking Water Users Union)
- strengthening of Kyrgyz construction companies / contractors by supplying of work
- planning of rehabilitation and extension of systems
- implementation of the necessary construction works
- development and implementation of a tariff-system to pay for necessary maintenance and repairs
- accompanying measures to improve the hygiene-behaviour of villagers

A community contribution of 5 % in cash, and a further 15 % in kind – normally backfilling of open trenches – is stipulated. The planning of the individual systems is being done in collaboration with the DRWS and the CDWUUs, and subsequently approved by the WB. The works are publicly tendered (as stipulated by the WB). The construction-supervision is being done by Kyrgyz engineers on Rayon- and Oblast-level; these engineers are in turn being trained and supervised by an international expert.

Status / Problems:

Presently – early September 2008 – 157 sites (usually one to three villages) are completed, five are still under construction and two are being re-tendered after cancellation of contract due to sub-optimal performance of contractors (please see table below). The project is due to be completed respectively handed over to the national counterpart agency by the end of October 2008. A second phase, again with the participation of Dfid / WB, is being planned .

Oblast	under construction	completed	re-tendered	Sums
Issyk Kul	1	56	1	58
Naryn	0	68	0	68
Talas	4	33	1	38
Sums	5	157	2	164

The most significant respectively the most frequent problems are insufficient community-participation, requests by communities to change the design after the works have started, lack of competence and/or equipment of contractors.