

Water for good governance - good governance for water, in rural Azerbaijan



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Figure 1. Women queuing for water

Introduction

Break up of Soviet system has resulted in collapse of water services in republics of ex-USSR.

Ineffective, centralised water management structures and resignation of communities are characteristics in rural Azerbaijan. Water is either wasted or absent.

Objective

To improve and sustain access to water in 10 villages.

Constraints: Strengthening existing water management structures or CBO's does not tackle core problems.

Promoting decentralisation, good governance, initiative and sense of responsibility are unequivocal priorities for sustaining water supply.

Methods

Water, a primary objective, becomes a means to promote and develop local self-governance.

Water is used in the project:

- . to endorse municipalities' role
- . to develop municipalities capacities
- . to stimulate participatory approach
- . as incentive to promote better governance.



Figure 3. Collapse of water and sanitation conditions (Mayak).



Figure 2. Anarchic connections

Results

70% of Municipalities have achieved:

- . Better governance
- . Human and financial commitment
- . Control over water service
- . Long-term strategy

Communities have increased:

- . Participation, information
- . Sense of ownership
- . Financial contribution

These new and crucial steps within communities pave the way for effective water and sanitation management.

Conclusion

Most ex-soviet countries register high economic growth but no change in decision-making processes.

Governance is "vertical", decentralisation discouraged, inhibiting sound community development.

Water supply projects are valuable vectors to challenge passive *status quo*.

Pro-active method can stimulate local self-government and citizens to unite and act for common objective.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 4. Election of users representatives.



Figure 5. Developing municipal strategy plan.



Figure 6. Municipality restoring proper water supply and sanitation (Mayak) .