



Development of the sustainable water and sanitation systems in CAREC region

Uzbekistan National report

WASH challenges in Uzbekistan:

- The sector accumulated serious problems (poor infrastructure, limited planning mechanisms, limited financial resources, and weak institutional capacity);
- 89,3% and 69.4% in urban and rural areas are accordingly connected to centralized water supply systems. A significant part of the population endures irregular and poor-quality water supply. About 50% of urban and 5,5% of the rural population connected to municipal wastewater systems;
- Funding constraints have been acute, limited public funding, and limited stakeholder involvement in the sector;
- Limited resources and water quality, aging water supply, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure need to deliver better service to people.
- Need to expand water resources management and protection, monitoring, and analysis network.

Innovative financial mechanism for WASH sector



Main financier: Uzbekistan made substantial investment in upgrading the water supply and sanitation services. Total public borrowing (ADB, WBG, SDC, etc.) for improvements of WASH for the period from 1995 to 2014 amounted to US\$ 344.1 million, the largest in Central Asia;

Source of funding of WASH budget: the state budget (over the past two years, 2 trillion 400 billion UZS been allocated to improve drinking water supply and sanitation) twice as much as the sums assigned in the previous 10 years). The state budget have been the main investor, followed by self-financing, while social funds account for very limited share. Tariffs increased in recent years but remain low to cover the costs O&M or to accumulate funds for investment. Special attention is given to public involvement in policy development during the last period. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is being widely supported as an innovative financial mechanism for the Wash sector.

Estimate: Bringing the water supply rate to 98 percent in urban and 85 percent in rural areas as well as the sewage provision rate to 31 percent by 2030 will require 4.5 billion USD.

Data Source:

[1] UNICEF- Uzbekistan, 2018. *Using the equality approach for water, sanitation and hygiene activities in schools in the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

[2] ADB 2019. *Uzbekistan: Preparing Urban Development and Improvement Projects* (<https://www.adb.org/projects/52317-001/main#project-overview>)

Community-based WASH schemes



Strong political will on development of community-based schemes. Centralized and decentralized water supply systems, inter-regional water pipes and etc. managed by regional and district agencies, sectoral ministries, corporations, interdepartmental organizations, and associations. With the support of ESAs (ADB, WBG, SDC, Crosslink Int. and others), some community-based water schemes are also being developed.

Example: “Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in the Ferghana Valley” Project (2013-2018) as a part of the SDC larger water program focused on developing local management structures for the water supply.

Goal: To help build their own drinking water supply system and empower local communities through participation in the decision-making process that increased the project's acceptance. Another focus of the project was an information campaign for villagers on the subject of hygiene.

Target area: Ferghana valley.

Results: 153,000 people in 40 villages were provided with drinking water and knowledge of hygienic and sanitary behavior. Schools and health centers were also provided with water. 31 Drinking Water Organizations manage the systems.

Data Source:

[1] World Bank Group 2015. *Social Impact Analysis of Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Central Asia.* (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23816>).

[2] *jmp-2019-full-report.* (<https://www.unwater.org/publications/whounicef-joint-monitoring-program-for-water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-2000-2017>)

[3] SDC, 2018 *Uzbekistan External Review of SDC's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program Phases I – IV (2007 -20180, with Emphasis on Phase IV (2013 -2018)*

Knowledge, technology, and experience sharing



The national institutional structure on WASH has gone through several changes during the last 30 years, from the soviet style to the recently approved contemporary type. Uzbekistan addressing services and elements of the SDGs in national WASH targets by projection of water quality and average per capita water consumption. The average per capita water consumption considered for the projections are: 240 lcd in urban areas, 160 lcd in the urbanized rural centers, 115 lcd in rural settlements—water quality to be met National Water Quality Standard's requirements.

Major challenges: Efficiency of the institutionalized structure of knowledge, technology, and experience sharing is low. Insufficient funds and human resources are often a major constraint in drinking-water and sanitation surveillance and oversight.

Requirement: Needs for effective, suitable knowledge, technology, and experience mechanisms in the WASH sector and Use of climate-resilient technology suitable in the specific conditions of the country.

Main recommendations



- Development of a General (Strategic plan) scheme of water supply and sanitation systems in cities and rural settlements of the country for the period up to 2035;
- Development of the material and financial bases and human resources for research and innovative activities in the fields of water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and wastewater treatment;
- Development of technical and laboratory bases of educational institutions and improvement of training programs for the WASH sectors;
- According to strategic targets, modernize the water supply, sanitation, and hygiene systems at an accelerated pace.
- Development of mechanisms for the broad and competition-based involvement of funds owned by different stakeholders ensuring WASH systems sustainability
- Finding suitable to local conditions good practices in WASH in the country along with the development of traditional schemes



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Thank you!