

SDC in DPR of Korea

2017 – 2020 WASH Programme

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

2017 – 2020 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme

Besides food and energy, water is one of the DPRK's three national development priorities. Communities and authorities are ardent to improve the WASH situation in the DPRK. However the driving force is often not primarily to improve public health through access to clean water and safe sanitation, but to have the comfort of running water in their houses and thus reduce the workload of fetching water. This project aims to improve the desired access to WASH services, however in a sustainable way with direct impact on public health and the environment through the protection of water resources. The objectives focus on improving technical capacities at county level and provide know-how and means to protect water sources, raise DRR awareness, and institutionalise operation & maintenance and asset management in a way that strengthens the resilience of WASH services and facilitates the replication of rural WASH interventions.

The 4th Phase of SDC's WASH programme (2017-20) is directly implementing projects in 3 provinces in cooperation with the Ministry of City Management (MoCM) and the recipient counties.



Solar power pump system Soksan Ri, North Hwanghae Province, 2017

Targeting 10,000 households and 80 social institutions (schools, health centres, children homes, etc.), the focus is on construction of water supplies in the rural areas, either through gravity-fed or solar-pumped systems, and encompasses the required sanitation infrastructure combined with hygiene promotion. In addition, the operation & maintenance of WASH services of 13 previously completed WASH projects is continuously monitored to achieve sustainability of impact.

Integrated WASH activities:

Following the inception phase in 2012, several small to medium rural WASH projects were completed in four provinces, providing 50,000 people with improved WASH services adapted to the economic, cultural and climate contexts of DPRK. Measures taken to improve water source protection are designed to make communities more resilient to frequent climatic shocks (e.g. drought, flood) and follow good practices related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). As a result, comprehensive measures

for water source protection and effective operation & maintenance have been introduced. With regard to the currently wide-spread unsafe handling of faecal matter (e.g. manual emptying of pit latrines for agricultural use), the elimination of such health risks is a major objective of this programme. Therefore, the use of improved sanitation structures (double pit ventilated improved latrines), combined with increased hygiene awareness and effective composting should facilitate safer handling of faecal matter. Proven successful technologies and good practices are actively promoted among WASH actors (Korean counterparts, UNICEF, INGOs) and included in training manuals, technical standards and guidelines for rural WASH services by MoCM.

Background Information

WASH infrastructure in the DPRK has deteriorated since the early 90s, when rural and semi-urban dwellings had piped water supply and sewerage systems. Being at the end of its lifetime, much of this infrastructure does not work anymore or malfunctions. With the failure of sanitation infrastructure, diarrhoea is the number one cause of morbidity and mortality for children under five.



Hygiene promotion poster explaining the use and advantage of double pit latrines

Budget

Year	Budget CHF
2017-20	3'160'000
2015-16	1'980'000
2012-14	2'050'000

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