

# Sustainable safe drinking water supply to rural schools and health institutions in Tajikistan



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Tajikistan

**Duration:** May 2002 to March 2004

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNICEF

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministries of Health and Education

**Budget:** \$1,155,590.49

**Key Words:** Conflict-affected communities; access to WASH; children

## BACKGROUND

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Tajikistan became an independent state and shortly thereafter plunged into a civil war and a precipitous economic decline. Although a peace accord was signed in 1997, insurgencies continued sporadically and the extended period of instability interrupted economic activities and destroyed infrastructure especially in rural areas and low-income urban settings. By 2002, water supply systems and the sewerage infrastructure were significantly degraded

and the absence of clean water along with inadequate sanitation and unhygienic practices provoked the spread of water-borne diseases with severe negative health effects on the population and, on children, in particular. Subsequently, according to UNICEF, water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid fever, hepatitis and worm infections remained the main cause of deaths and illnesses amongst infants and children.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to prevent water-borne and hygiene-related diseases by providing clean drinking water to schools and health institutions combined with education on hygienic practices. Consequently, the project set out to (i) enable schools and health institutions to obtain access to

clean water; (ii) promote safe hygiene practices and address the lack of knowledge and public awareness in this area; and (iii) strengthen the capacity of local authorities to plan, implement and manage water systems in schools and other public institutions.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project's direct beneficiaries were 195,000 children and teachers in 242 schools in the provinces of Khatlon, Sughd and Karategin Valley who gained access to safe water. In addition, teachers received training to help them promote

hygienic behaviour in the participating communities. Moreover, the construction of water pumps provided an additional 30,000 people in the surrounding communities with clean water.