

SDC in DPR of Korea

2015 – 2016 WASH Programme

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme

Besides food and energy, water is one of the DPRK's three national development priorities. Communities and authorities have long been conscious of the importance of improving the water supply situation in the DPRK, although the comfort of having running water in houses and reducing the workload of fetching water rather than health has been the overriding concern. However, with many schemes now dilapidated, the dire consequences for public health have become apparent, spawning an emergent interest in a more holistic and sectoral approach which includes sanitation and hygiene. In this vein, SDC is currently implementing projects in 4 provinces in cooperation with the Ministry of City Management (MoCM) and the recipient counties.



Household Water tap in Sadong Ri, Kangwon Province, 2016

Pyongyang Province

- Development of training manuals, standards and guidelines for rural WASH services
- Extension of gravity fed water supply system in Kubin Ri.

South Pyongan Province

- Latrine construction and hygiene promotion in Songsok Ri.
- Construction of waste water treatment systems in the town of Pyongwon Up.

North Hwanghae Province

- Gravity-fed water supply systems in Serim Ri, Yonsan Up and Unjom Ri, and solar pump system in Soksan Ri.

Kangwon Province (Ichon, Munchon, Phangyo County)

- Gravity-fed water systems in Sinhung Ri, Namchang Ri, Sadong Ri, Gudang Ri and Koam Ri.

Integrated WASH activities:

Following a first phase 2012-2014, there are currently several small-to-medium scale rural projects underway in four provinces in the 2015/16 phase. These will provide 25'000 people with improved water supply and sanitation services which are adapted to the economic, cultural and climatic realities of the DPRK.

Backstopping consultancies from Switzerland are assisting the development of technically viable options to secure economic, environmental and social efficacy of the interventions. In addition, special attention to good working conditions in rural areas is a priority. 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).

Background Information

The situation in the water and sanitation sector in the DPRK has deteriorated since the early 90s, when most towns had piped water supply systems and sewage treatment built in the 60's and 70's. Much of the infrastructure still exists; however, it is prone to leakages, break downs and poor maintenance or lack of electrical power to run pumping systems. A result of sanitation infrastructure failure is that water-borne ailments such as dysentery quickly emerge, which is the number one cause of morbidity and mortality for children under five years.



Hygiene promotion poster explaining the use and advantage of double pit latrine)

Budget

Year	Budget CHF
2015-16	1'980'000
2012-14	2'050'000

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