

6<sup>TH</sup> W O R L D W A T E R F O R U M

***Community based water and  
sanitation and Women  
empowerment, an example from  
Kyrgyzstan***



TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

Anara Choitonbaeva,  
Chairperson, Kyrgyz Alliance  
for Water and Sanitation  
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[achoitonbaeva@list.ru](mailto:achoitonbaeva@list.ru)



## Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS)

KAWS is a network organization of 46 Community Drinking Water Users Unions CDWUUs established in 2008

- KAWS focus is on raising awareness for safe water and sustainable sanitation in rural areas
- KAWS is the member of National Water Policy Dialog and actively cooperating with the national and regional state
- KAWS is the member of WECF network



Kyrgyz Republic

# **BACKGROUND TO THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT IN KYRGYZSTAN**

## **The Problem:**

- 🔥 since the end of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Kyrgyz government has lacked resources to provide this service. Many villages have had no clean drinking water for 15 years**
- 🔥 Is there an alternative? Can rural people and their communities address their lack of safe drinking water and manage its provision themselves?**
- 🔥 Rural Kyrgyzstan is a generally traditional and male dominated society mainly in the southern part of the country**

**However, women make up over half the population they are also the ones most affected by the presence or absence of clean drinking water**

## **-> The Rural Water Supply Sanitation Project**

- 🔥 Worked with 200 villages in 3 northern Kyrgyzstan to re-habilitated their water supply and sanitation systems between 2002-2008**
- 🔥 Financial and technical assistance provided by DFID and the World Bank.**
- 🔥 local Community Development Team, recruited from NGOs to implement awareness raising, community mobilization, training etc**



***Typical Situation in Rural Areas:  
deteriorated rural drinking water supply - broken pumps -  
unsafe water quality – pit latrines***



## The Approach

- 🔥 **Participation and Involvement of local People are Basic Principles which are Relevant to Improving Local Governance and Citizens Use of Public Resources**
- 🔥 **Awareness raising was done in workshops with 3 groups of people : the men, women and young people. These were done separately to ensure as wide a participation as possible and also to ensure different voices (especially those of women) could be heard**





## ***Ways in which women's participation is encouraged***

***Participatory Community Appraisal is done separately with the women to ensure their voices are heard***

***Women encouraged to be involved in the Community Mobilisation***

***Women encouraged to be elected to the CDWUU Board***

***Insisting that half of the Tap Stand Committee members are female***

***Exposure visits to villages with female CDWUU Chair***



## **Community Self Monitoring of Sustainability**

**Participatory Self Monitoring including men, women and all stakeholder:**

- **Increased sense of ownership**
- **Higher financial sustainability (increased tariff payment, 95% pay the water tariff)**
- **Improved governance**
- **Technical sustainability**
- **Accountability**



## Effective Learning and Networking

- 🔥 **Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation found that peer learning is a simple, powerful and successful way for rural people**
- 🔥 **Encouraged exchange and inter exchange visits between communities and CDWUUs and also building structures for continuous learning and development**
- 🔥 **It is vital that networks are initiated by the CDWUUs themselves and not imposed top-down**



Ecosan toilet



# Going beyond water supply: Providing sustainable solutions for improved living conditions

- sanitation (ecosan)
- Energy (stoves and solar collectors)
- Food security



## ***Sustainability and Up-Scaling of Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation***

- Local capacity in the villages through training facilitators who instruct local staff on the construction and maintenance of the respective technologies - with local staff and expertise and local construction materials***
- CDWUU's Demonstration and Resource Centers***
- Working with local school children and women groups developing set of Environmental Joint Action Plans to raise awareness and demand for environmental technologies***
- Social financing mechanisms making the technologies affordable and suitable for local communities***



Thank you for your  
attention!

