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RURAL WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

JANUARY 2016 – JUNE 2020

\$30 MILLION

OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development is partnering with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support the Afghan Government and civil society to improve access to safe drinking water, community sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices in households, schools, and health facilities. The program aims to improve the lives of at least 75,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households in 16 selected rural Afghan provinces.

Only 42 percent of Afghans have access to clean drinking water. Moreover, only 27 percent of the rural population has access to sanitation facilities, resulting in exposure to water-borne pathogens that cause diarrheal disease, which claim the lives of an estimated 85,000 Afghan children under the age of 5 every year.

ACTIVITIES

- Increase access to safe drinking water services and increase the sustainability of water supply systems, with higher levels of service, through the involvement of small-scale enterprises to maintain them
- Support health centers to adopt guidelines for improving hygienic practices in health facilities and hospitals
- Educate local partners and community groups to deliver messages that improve knowledge of hygiene and use of good hygiene practices in communities in 16 target provinces.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased access to safe drinking water for at least 525,000 people (in about 75,000 households across up to 1,000 communities) by the end of 2019 and expanded access to sources in, or closer to, homes
- Supported operation, maintenance, servicing and management of small-scale rural community water supplies through private enterprises or associations
- Introduced solar powered water pumps and gravity-fed water systems, which are more reliable and cheaper to maintain than traditional hand pumps
- Improved hygiene practices in at least 50 health centers
- Expanded access to an improved safe drinking water supply for children in about 200 primary schools or community-based learning centers and provided separate restroom facilities for girls

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