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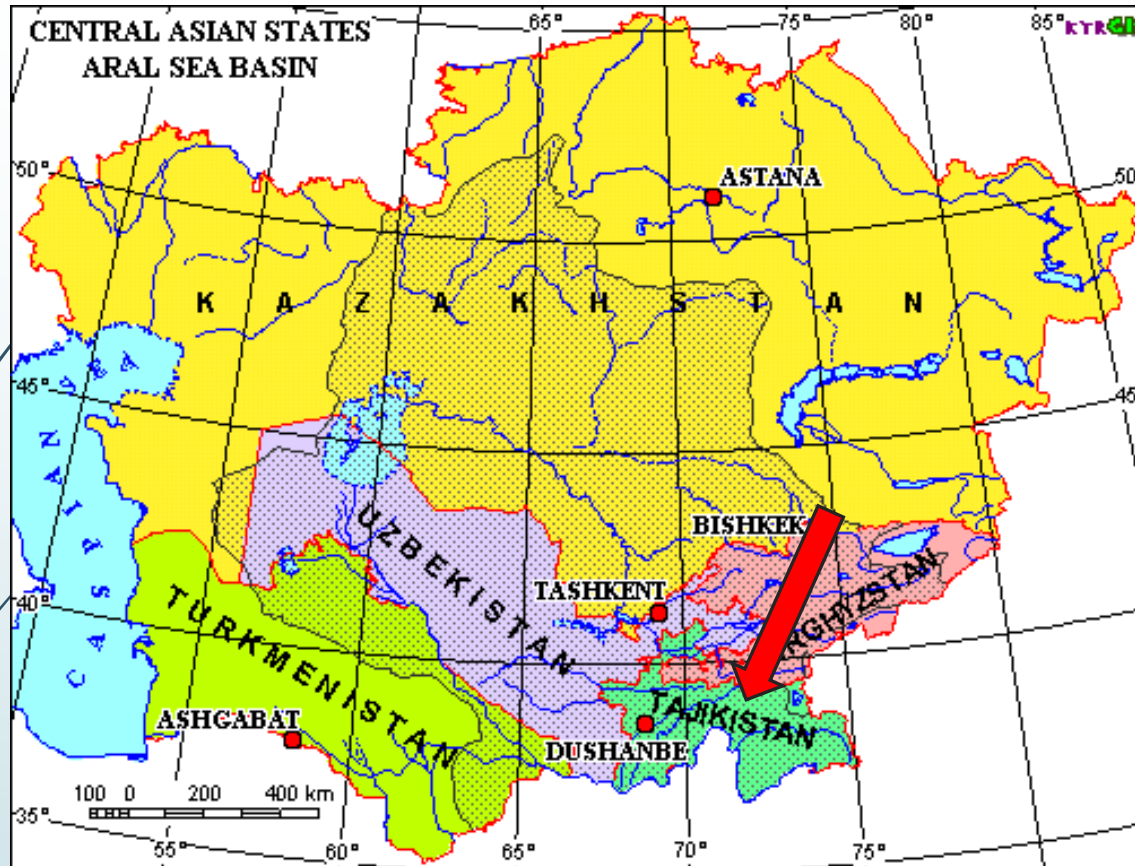
# Women's participation and leadership in rural WASH - case from rural Tajikistan

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Special Event of Finland at the World Water Week 2015:  
"Water and Sanitation to Millions – Working with the  
People"

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# Tajikistan in brief



**Location** Land locked country in south-east of Central Asia

**Area** 142,5 thous.km<sup>2</sup> (93% of total area are mountains)

**Population** 8,3 million (1 Jan 2013, 26% urban and 74% rural)

**GDP, 2013:** 8,35 billion USD (7.3% growth in compare with 2012)

**GDP per capita:** 780 USD

**HDI rating:** 0.622 (125, medium human development)

**Access to safe drinking water:** 57%, 90% of urban and 49% of rural population

**Climate:** Continental

# Water resources in Tajikistan

- ▶ **Glaciers – 845 km<sup>3</sup> (volume), 11 146 km<sup>2</sup> (surface area)**
- ▶ **Surface water resources – 64 km<sup>3</sup> (55.4% of the Aral Sea Basin river flow)**
- ▶ **Lakes - 46 km<sup>3</sup> (volume), 705 km<sup>2</sup> (surface area), 1300 (number)**
- ▶ **Reservoirs – 15.34 km<sup>3</sup> (volume), 664 km<sup>2</sup> (surface area)**
- ▶ **Underground water resources – 18,7 км<sup>3</sup> (2,8 km<sup>3</sup> – useful resources)**



# Water challenges in Tajikistan

*Despite having such huge water resources, Tajikistan is still facing a number of water related problems, including in drinking water supply, hydropower generation, irrigation agriculture, flood and mudflows prevention, draughts mitigation, adaptation to climate change impacts.*



- Only 57% of population (90% of urban and 49% of rural) have access to safety drinking water



- Almost all irrigation infrastructure have been built during 1960-1980 and they require immediate rehabilitation and modernization

- More than 98% of electricity comes from hydropower and because of reduction of river flow in winter time, the country faces significant electricity shortages



- Because of mountainous relief Tajikistan is very prone to floods and mudflows and annually suffers huge economic losses

# Gender mainstreaming: National Level

- **Establishing the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of Tajikistan;**
- **National Law “About state guarantee on equality of rights men and women and their equal implementation”, 2005;**
- **President Decree about increasing the status of women in the society, 1999 and State Program “The main direction of the state policy on ensuring the equal rights and facilities of men and women”, 2001;**
- **President Decree about appointment of at least one of the deputies of Ministers, Head of Agencies and City Administrations from women;**
- **Government Resolution on provision of quotas for girls from rural areas to study in universities;**
- **Adoption of the National Strategy on Activization of Women’s Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020.**

# Why is this important?

## The role of women in rural WASH:

- **Women and girls are:**
  - heavily affected by poor access to drinking water and sanitation;
  - the primary users, providers and managers of water as well as the guardians of household hygiene;
  - spend a lot of time on household cleaning;
- **Women bear the main burden of caring for those who are ill**, which limits their chances to engage into productive activities and education.
- **Lack of water and sanitation is also affecting women's mobility;**
- **No access to decision making processes within their communities;**
- **Labor migration of men creates a space for the emergence of women's activism and engagement in productive roles;**
- **Women's participation is increasing in water and sanitation projects**, they are recognized as consumers, and they demand a good quality services

# Success stories and positive results:

## Happy Women

- **UN Women:** Rural women lead construction of a mountain path and a water pipeline

*“Since this summer the Tojikobod district in Tajikistan’s Rasht Valley is equipped with a new mountain path and water pipeline. This infrastructure, which makes a difference to the lives of humans and their cattle alike, was built on the initiative of 16 women.”*

- Today, the pipeline through its 21 tapping points provides water to 3,500 people.
- Community mobilization: Joint proposal of a group of villagers and under leadership of women shows strong commitment.
- Resource mobilization: Grant proposal, private donors and community engagement – that brings about positive change.



# Success stories and positive results:

## Happy Women

- ▶ **Oxfam GB:** Effective management over water supply systems and women's participation in promotion of sanitation and hygiene within their communities

*“Before we had to collect water from long distance, stay in a queue, we even slept at night by the tap waiting for the water and women had frequent quarrels as water was scarce. Sometimes I happened to go at night and it was scary but I had to go. When the tap dried we started to use the water from the channel that was far away and not clean. We fetched water from the channel by donkeys; we washed clothes and bathed our kids in this channel”.*

- ▶ Small scale water supply systems and operation approach – Water Users Association, as an effective management tool.
- ▶ Woman became a member of WUAs, receives new skills, knowledge that leads to self-confidence, their demands and participation in the different activities, strengthens their role at village level;

# Success stories and positive results:

## Happy Women

- **Aga Khan Foundation:** Access to adequate sanitation and appropriate hygiene is a key to sustainable health.

*“EcoSan toilets were built in more than 1800 households and 21 public places in mountainous villages of Tajikistan. This sanitation solution was positively received by communities, especially women and girls. They are ecologically safe, clean and accessible”.*

- It is economically efficient and socially safe approach: health indicators, environmentally friendly;
- It brings about behavioral change within entire communities: New solutions requires new knowledge and skills in usage, maintenance and replication;
- In the areas with less usable territories (mountains) EcoSan Toilets became as a good opportunity and model, that improves overall sanitation condition in each household.

# Tajikistan: Where global women and water challenges are discussed.

- ▶ **Dushanbe, August 19, 2013:** International Women and Water Forum was held within International Year of Water Cooperation.

## **Key title “Empowerment of Women: Foundation for Successful Transnational Water Cooperation”**

- *Women and Water Cooperation for Human Development*
- *Women and Water Cooperation for Economic Benefits*
- *Women and Water Cooperation for Ecosystems*
- *Women and Water Cooperation Across Borders*

- ▶ **Dushanbe, June 8, 2015:** International Pre-conference event “Women and Water”

## **Key title “Women for a water-secure world under the Post 2015 global agenda for sustainable development”**

- *Gender, Water and Urban Issues: Lessons learned in the past decade*
- *Why women’s participation in the Drinking Water and Sanitation sector matters. Post 2015 Agenda*

2013



2015



# Current efforts:

## ► Stakeholders participation in influencing national policies towards Women participation in Water resources management:

- National Working Group “Women leadership in water resources management in Tajikistan”, involved different partners, including governments and international organizations.

## Key Objectives:

- overall review of gender issues in water sector in Tajikistan, including water resources management, leadership role of women and their participation;
- elaboration of an action plan on the basis of the overall reviews and studies, which will contain its strategic directions and developments, including gender and water strategy;

**FinWaterWEI II Programme** is also involved in the facilitation of the Working group in cooperation with Oxfam GB and the National Committee of Women and Family affairs.

# Thank you!

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