



Teachers' Association Restores Water to School

Challenge

Over 1,000 schoolchildren in Georgia's oldest educational institution have been without running water and proper sanitation facilities for many years due to Georgia's decaying infrastructure and poorly managed water supply systems. Telavi Secondary School No. 1 was originally constructed in 1758 to accommodate 420 students. In 2004, due to its reputation for academic excellence, 1,006 students and 100 staff are squeezed between the walls of the highly prized but aging building. Diseases that are usually preventable, such as hepatitis A, have run rampant through the school because of unsanitary conditions.



Photo: Paul Dreyer/DAI

Delighted schoolgirls run their fingers under fresh, running water - the first time for the school in over twelve years.

"Now we have water everyday of the week and it has been so good for the children. There haven't been any cases of hepatitis A or other spreadable diseases."

- Ms. Marina Javakhishvili, Telavi English Teachers' Association

Results

The school lavatories were thoroughly cleaned and renovated to prevent the spread of disease. School No. 1 now has running water and there have not been any reported cases of hepatitis A since the clean water was restored. Once completed, the school sanitation became the responsibility of the Telavi government to ensure the maintenance of clean water for the school. Winning the small grant from USAID paved the way for the Teachers' Association to win other small grants for additional projects including a computer laboratory in Telavi for community members to learn how to use computers and access the Internet.

Initiative

USAID is helping to improve the management of water resources in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. USAID awarded a small grant to the Telavi English Teachers' Association to improve the sanitary conditions at Telavi Secondary School No. 1. The small grants component of the project is intended to increase public awareness about critical water issues and allow local stakeholders to solve some very significant water-related problems in their communities.

This small grants opportunity was promoted via newspaper and Internet ads, as well as by individual representatives from the project who visited small towns to inform citizens of the program. Using the grant, the Telavi Teachers' Association consulted with water supply specialists and public utility representatives to create a solution for the school's sanitation problems. The grant from USAID covered the installation of a water pipe, a water control system, and a water reservoir for the school.

