



SUCCESS STORY

Building Access to Safe Drinking Water

Villagers now have clean water at their doorsteps



Photo: Mercy Corps

A Navobod villager collects water from a USAID-funded pump located steps away from his home.

The villages donated labor and meals for workers, helped communicate with authorities, and committed to contribute to the system's future maintenance and operations costs.

In September 2005, USAID supported installation of a water supply system in the village of Navobod in Panjakent District, in Tajikistan's Sughd Province. The project helped install more than 2.5 kilometers of pipeline and 15 water fountains in Navobod. This infrastructure will provide access to safe drinking water to over 1000 residents. This was the second USAID-sponsored safe drinking water project completed in Panjakent in September. Earlier that month, a safe water system was installed in the village of Jangal, serving more than 800 residents.

Before the water supply system was installed, the nearest source of drinking water for these communities were natural springs, located far from the villages in this poor, remote area of Tajikistan. To bring safe drinking water to the villages, USAID's project cooperated with local communities. The villages donated labor and meals for workers, helped communicate with authorities, and committed to contribute to the system's maintenance and operations costs.

USAID works with 16 communities and about 12,000 beneficiaries in the district of Panjakent. Projects focus on drinking water, irrigation, drainage systems, small bridges, and electric systems. In addition to funding important improvements, USAID helps villages create community organizations and develop capacity to address pressing social and economic issues. Through these activities, the project helps reduce tensions between villages, ethnic groups, and governing bodies in an area where competition for resources could potentially lead to conflict.