

RENEWED WATER TOWER IN THE NEW YEAR!

The main facility of the water tower in the village was built in 1965. Over this period of time, the equipment of the water tower has deteriorated. There was no access to drinking water on two streets of the village and at the end of Budenovka village, and because of lack of the water pressure there was no drinking water in many other places. Pipes were obsolete, they were worn out. The tower was open and all sorts of sewage fell into it, as a result of which the village resident could fall ill. A nearby school also used the water from that water tower, and children after drinking this water complained about various pains in stomach and were ill. There were no qualified specialist in the municipality who would repair the water supply system; neither there was equipment for timely repair the broken pipes.

The issue of repairing the water tower and upgrading the adjacent territory was identified as one of the priority problems during the priority rural assessment sessions (PRA). In total 387 people including 158 women participated in the sessions in the

villages of Kochkorbaev municipality. The PRA focus group participants (27 people, including 12 women) in Kenesh village of Kochkorbaev AA analyzed the causal relationship of the drinking water problem. They have listed the possible cause of the problem: old pipes, lack of specialists and money, which resulted in such consequences as increase in morbidity, erosion of roads.

On February 5, 2016, a village meeting was held to select a priority project in the Kochkorbaev ayil aimak to participate in the Small Grants Program competition within "Voice of Citizens and Accountability of Local Self-Government: Budget Process" project. Three projects were presented at the meeting: a project to create conditions for solid waste disposal, a project to provide street lightning in Kenesh and Budenovka villages, and a project on clean drinking water supply to residents of Budenovka village. By voting, the project on improving the conditions for providing clean water to the residents of Budenovka village through repair of the water tower was chosen. Then this project was also successfully selected

by the Small Grants Program.

The beginning of the project works was delayed because the procurement competition had to be announced four times due to non-compliance of contractors' qualifications with the requested requirements. "Katagan" company was selected as a winner of the last contest, which later carried out all the works. Joint monitoring and evaluation group also participated in this process and ensured that the work was carried out in a qualitative way. As a result of the grant project, the water tower was replaced and a wall was built around the tower.

The total project cost was 1,272,006 KGS, out of which 1 million KGS was allocated by the Small Grants Program and 272,006 KGS allocated from the local budget. The procurement of works in the process of the grant project implementation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Kyrgyz Republic legislation. Aiyl okmotu employee was trained on public procurement processes organized by the Project.

On January 12, 2017, we held an official event on the completion of the grant project "Clean Water Is Necessary Precondition for Health" in Budenovka village, where we invited local residents, activists and deputies of the local kenesh. At this event the deputies promised to take control over rational use of clean water, as some of our residents use drinking water for irrigation. Because of that, the water pressure weakens and as a result, the other residents remain without water.

We have jointly repaired the water tower and now Budenovka village population has access to clean drinking water. Thanks to this project our residents and children will be healthy!

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