

Project “Rehabilitation of the Water Supply System in Nisporeni”



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC
Agenția Elvețiană pentru
Dezvoltare și Cooperare



Project full name:

Rehabilitation of the water supply system in the municipalities of Nisporeni, Varzaresti and Grozesti, Republic of Moldova

Sector: Water and sanitation

Inception phase:
November 2010 –
February 2013

Main phase:
March 2013 – July 2016

SDC contribution:
CHF 1,140,000

Total project budget:
EUR 11,300,000
(CHF 13,880,000)

Partners:

- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- European Union
- Ministry of Environment of Moldova
- Nisporeni district council
- Municipalities of Nisporeni, Varzaresti and Grozesti

Project overview

The SDC has joined a consortium of donors, led by the Austrian Development Agency, and local partners to assist the Government of Moldova in addressing the issue of safe drinking water supply and improved sanitation in Nisporeni, the capital city of the district, and the neighbouring villages of Varzaresti and Grozesti, situated in the proximity of the Prut River.

The project aims at building an integrated water supply infrastructure to include a water pumping station, a water treatment plant and distribution networks connecting the three municipalities. In order to prevent pollution of environment as a result of increased water consumption, the project will take priority sanitation measures, considering both centralized and decentralized options for wastewater treatment.

Creating conditions for the long-term operation of water and sanitation systems is an important component of the project. Hence special attention is paid to the activities meant to build up local ownership and strengthen the capacity of local authorities and public service providers to manage effectively the operation and maintenance of the water and sanitation systems.

With more than ten years of work experience in the construction of decentralized systems in the Nisporeni district, the SDC will not only contribute funding, but will also transfer expertise and best practices in the areas of engineering, good governance, and human rights.

Challenges and opportunities

The district of Nisporeni is one of the most disadvantaged regions in terms of socio-economic development that has been included in the National Water Strategy as a priority geographical area for water supply and sanitation.

The existing water supply system of the city of Nisporeni, built in the mid 80'ies, supplies underground water to only one third of its residents. However, the quality of the supplied water does not meet the drinking water standards being qualified as 'technical water'. On the other hand, private households rely on the water from shallow wells, which is, in most cases, as polluted as the rest of the water supplied conventionally in the city.

The current situation regarding sanitation and wastewater treatment is not encouraging either. The Nisporeni public sewerage system is barely operating, whereas in Varzaresti and Grozesti it does not exist at all. Moreover, the discharged wastewater and the use of pit latrines is further compounding the problem of polluting environment.

The rehabilitation of the water supply infrastructure will be based on the technical standards of the European Union, ensuring the supply of safe drinking water and the sustainable operation of the water system. Applied technologies will allow for extending of the water infrastructure to other municipalities, as well as the connection to alternative sanitation solutions.



Results of the previous phase

During the inception phase, the project carried out a technical evaluation to assess the condition of the existing water and sanitation infrastructure. The institutional capacity of the local service provider, the Nisporeni Apa Canal company, was also reviewed. The results of these assessments have been used in shaping the scope of the rehabilitation works and institutional development activities.

"Recognizing the human right to water and sanitation is not only an economically wise choice but also a legal obligation. Immediate steps must be taken to respect the human right to water and sanitation, especially for those marginalized, vulnerable and neglected."

*Catarina de Albuquerque,
the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*

Overall goal

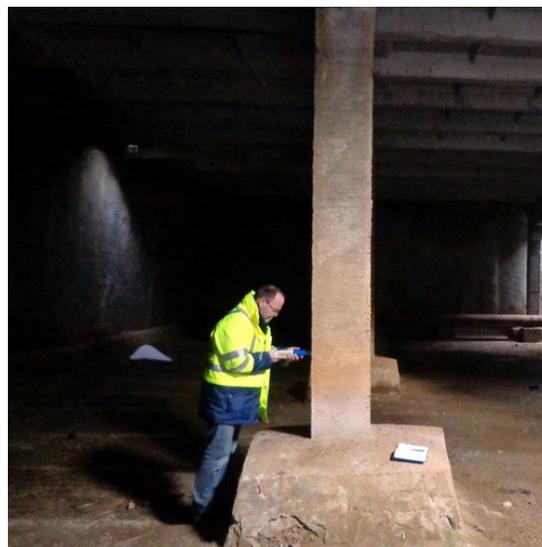
The quality of life and public health of the population in Nisporeni, Varzaresti and Grozesti municipalities is improved by better access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Main activities of the phase

- Ensure participation of all involved parties in the project coordination, organization, quality and cost control.
- Conduct technical evaluation of assets, water testing and design works.
- Tender and contract companies to deliver services and works.
- Carry out rehabilitation and construction works.
- Strengthen the capacity of the local service provider, local authorities and professionals to

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effectively manage, operate and maintain the water infrastructure.

- Assist local authorities in developing and introducing water tariffs and billing systems.
- Ensure access to information and participation of the population through public events, meetings and online platforms.

Project beneficiaries

National environmental and health authorities, district and local public administration, water utility and sanitation service providers, private sector, and the population of Nisporeni, Varzaresti and Grozesti.

