

Nature's Reward Reaches Armenian Homes

June 11, 2009 - Geography has generously bestowed Armenia with rich, sweet water resources flowing from high altitude mountain springs. However, the spring water – the object of Armenian pride – does not always does reach the country's inhabitants in good quality and sufficient quantity.



Municipal Water and Wastewater Project, sponsored by the World Bank has had huge implications on the quality of life in the town, and especially on health risks.

Armenia's municipal water and wastewater systems had been left unattended for decades, and were in a dilapidated state, causing disruptions in service and health problems. Owing to the Municipal Water and Wastewater Project sponsored by the World Bank, thousands of Armenians who had experienced the effects of the poor quality water supply first-hand are now relieved. Under the Project, two water treatment plants, six pumping stations, 20 reservoirs, and 83 km of network are being rehabilitated, constructed, or rebuilt all around the country. Overall, the utility's service area includes 37 cities and 269 rural settlements. So far, the Project improved water supply services in 19 towns with 350,000 residents.

Multimedia

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"Before the reconstruction of the Dilijan treatment plants, all the structures were mostly broken. The clarification tanks, technological pipes, and valves were leaking, and the reagent technology was not operating," explained an engineer working at the plant. *"As a result, the quality of the water supplied was below the required norms, especially during snow melts and rainy periods."*

Now the water treatment plant in the town of Dilijan has been restored. Since then, the plant operates 24 hours a day, providing more than 16,000 residents with high quality drinking water. *"We have special laboratories that are examining the quantity of chlorine, aluminum, and bacteria in the water on an hourly basis,"* said **Vartan Mnatsakanyan, Head of Water Distribution**. *"This has had huge implications on the quality of life in the town, and especially on health risks."*

In the past, turbid water from the tap was the norm rather than the exception, especially after heavy seasonal precipitation, when the water supply was usually cut. Now, despite turbid water entering the treatment plant, the new technology ensures good water quality.

Another town that has benefited is Charentsavan. Its 25 thousand residents now have access to quality running water in their homes most of the day. The new pumping equipment and renovations have dramatically increased the water supply. Certainly, the people of Charentsavan are satisfied with the measurable results and appreciate the investments.



The water treatment plant in the town of Dilijan has been restored.

Hakob, an unemployed electrical engineer, along with his wife and daughter-in-law were one of the first to benefit from the renewed water system. *"In the past we had water only a few hours a day, while now we get it almost the whole day,"* said Hakob. *"Also, the quality of the water was often very bad. Now we are able to enjoy the high quality water that nature has endowed us with,"* he adds proudly.



Hakob and his wife are glad that they can enjoy the water all day now.

As part of the project, Armenia is also training hundreds of the country's water system employees in the latest methods of distributing water and chlorine. *"The training has helped*

very much because we are getting information according to international standards, and we are trying to apply this technology at our work stations," said **Armine Babertsyan, a trainee.**