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**AFGHANISTAN**

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## FACT SHEET

# Commercialization of Afghanistan Water and Sanitation (CAWSA)

### OVERVIEW

CAWSA began in November 2008 to help the newly created Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSC) improve water supply systems in Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Ghazni, and Gardez. Kandahar and four other urban cities were recently added at AUWSSC's request. This project has successfully designed and implemented a viable business model for urban water service delivery converting failed government-operated urban water departments into public commercial water utilities, operating as AUWSSC subsidiaries. Reforms implemented by CAWSA have improved the ability of AUWSSC to **sustainably** provide dependable, safe drinking water to many more urban residents in a country where more than 15% of children die before age 5 due to waterborne diseases.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Build on CAWSA success to continue to improve service and reduce water supply costs
- Create capacity at AUWSSC headquarters to implement and sustain CAWSA water supply safety, service, and management improvements in all 25 urban water utilities when USAID support ends
- Train AUWSSC technicians to test water quality and operate new chlorination equipment
- Conduct international and in-country study missions to demonstrate improved technologies
- Create technical capacity in AUWSSC to assist small municipal water departments to sustainably produce safe water and improve water conservation
- Prepare training curricula and documentation, including a Water Supply Operations and Maintenance Manual that AUWSSC can use after the project closes, to continue to improve Afghan health and save more lives

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Transformed non-performing government water departments into semi-autonomous utilities that will be able to operate without government subsidy
- Added more than 5000 new connections to SBUs, including mosques and public taps, serving more than 52,000 additional residents, while they increased production to supply more water with the same basic infrastructure and improved operating efficiency
- Improved capacity to test, treat and deliver safe drinking water
- Made major reductions in the unit cost of water production through training and implementation of an employee performance incentive plan that significantly increased efficiency of personnel
- Created non-traditional employment opportunities for Afghan women, including positions as meter-readers, customer service representative, and public awareness facilitators, teaching urban women and girls to use water wisely at home and conserve this valuable resource
- Help eliminate the need for government subsidy for basic water services by reducing costs while increasing sales
- Leveraged modest USAID infrastructure investment of \$988,900, by preparing project proposals and supporting investments of more than \$ 8,742,061 from other donors
- Prepared the foundation for USAID to withdraw from the urban water supply sector knowing that lives have been saved and that water utility employees know how to continue to improve service