

Improved Water Resources Management and Drinking Water Safety in Rural China

The Challenge

Water is one of the most important natural resources for human development. The Millennium Development Goals have helped to highlight the importance of access to safe drinking water supplies and adequate sanitation. Over the past decades, the Chinese government has made significant efforts in expanding supply of safe drinking water in rural areas. However, over 300 million rural Chinese residents still have no access to safe drinking water, facing problems of shortage as well as severe contamination and subsequent health threats. In China, meeting demand for limited water resources and ensuring access to clean drinking water for rural areas have become critical environmental challenges, a major focus in the 11th National Five Year Plan.

The Response

The project aims to support government efforts to improve water resources management and drinking water safety in rural regions of China. Efforts will be made to improve policy mechanisms, and a series of sound water resources management approaches and drinking water safety technologies will be demonstrated including water rights management, water resources allocation, rebuilding of drainage pipelines, and ecologically sustainable agricultural technologies for water conservation.

The project will also incorporate international best practice by utilising the expertise and knowledge of the entire United Nations system. Coca-cola in particular serves as a lead private sector partner in China.

The project is a joint effort between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE) under the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). Local governments, research institutions and private partnerships will also greatly contribute to the expected project achievements.

Achievements

Expected achievements:

- Improved policies and technical standards for safe drinking water and effective water governance at national, provincial and county levels;
- Improved capacity at national, provincial, county and community levels to understand and utilise science and technology for rural water resources management and drinking water safety protection needs;
- Demonstration of technologies and practices in waterborne disease control, non-point source pollution control and ecological rehabilitation at local project sites; and
- Dissemination of the project methods and outcomes to institutions and communities in other parts of China and other developing countries with similar conditions.

At A Glance

Start Date: 2007

End Date: 2011

Implementing Partners: Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Commerce (CICETE)

Project ID: 00056957

UNDAF Goal: Outcome 3 – More efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behaviour, in order to ensure environmental sustainability

MDG: Goal 7, Target 9 – Ensure environmental sustainability

CPAP: Outcome 6 – End-use energy efficiency and application of new and renewable energy technologies improved

Total Budget:	US\$	6,092,000
UNDP:	US\$	1,542,000
Government:	US\$	4,200,000
Private Sector:	US\$	350,000

Project locations: Beijing, Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Xinjiang and Liaoning

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Ms Ma Qi, Programme Manager at (86-10) 85320800 or registry.cn@undp.org

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