

Restoring Water Service in Khost

After years of continuous conflict, many municipalities in Afghanistan were left with deteriorated infrastructure and failing public services. Through the USAID-funded Afghanistan Municipal Strengthening Program (AMSP), ICMA has helped restore infrastructure and has trained local staff to manage public services.

When this picture was taken, Ruqia was an eleven-year-old school girl who attended the Bibi Halima Girls School in the Emran Kot area of the municipality of Khost. She is the daughter of a poor family whose father goes out daily to find employment as a day-laborer.

In this picture, Ruqia is filling a bucket with water – water from a simple faucet in her home. Prior to March 2008, Ruqia’s responsibilities included bringing water from a community standpipe located hundreds of meters from her home in Khost. The constant need for water by her family and the distance she had to walk to get the water prevented Ruqia from attending school.

Thanks to an AMSP water supply project in Khost, Ruqia and other children in her community were able to return to school.

“We are so grateful to have our children go back to school instead of having to carry the water from so far away,” one homeowner said. He also added that “The water piped into our houses is safe and prevents outbreak of water-borne diseases.”

AMSP has worked in about a dozen provincial capitals in Afghanistan, providing municipal management training for local staff, small infrastructure projects, municipal mapping, and youth activities. Its overall objectives are to

- Improve the delivery of public services by participating municipalities
- Increase the capacity of municipal leaders and their senior staff to plan, finance, manage, and deliver these services
- Increase the confidence of citizens that their local governments are improving in their ability to meet citizens’ needs by carrying out independent surveys to obtain citizen feedback
- Implement constructive activities, programs, and events that educate and inspire youth toward careers in public service.



ABOUT ICMA

ICMA (International City/County Management Association) is the premier local government leadership and management organization worldwide. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advancing the professional management of local government. ICMA has been doing this since 1914 by providing technical and management assistance, training, and information resources to its members and the local government community. ICMA International was created in 1989 to further the ICMA mission worldwide. Since then it has successfully designed, implemented, and evaluated hundreds of international projects, establishing a solid reputation for its practical, hands-on approach to meeting global challenges.

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