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TAJIKISTAN

CASE STUDY

Rural Community Takes Out the Trash

Residents of Isfisor take control of their trash collection and disposal



Photo: Ahmad Khairullaev

Isfisor residents transport waste with the help of a new tractor and trailer.

The new tractor and trailer in Isfisor allow the local government to provide 7,000 residents with trash collection and removal services.

Challenge

Many rural communities in Tajikistan lack basic public services, such as trash collection, drinking water, and street cleaning. In Isfisor, mounds of rubbish lay in fields and in yards creating an eyesore and health hazard – especially for children who played in the trash. In 2009, Tajikistan’s government passed a law allowing rural communities to develop funding for public services; however, Isfisor had little experience planning or delivering public works and lacked the equipment necessary to address the problem.

Initiative

In order to take advantage of the 2009 legislation, Isfisor teamed up with USAID’s Local Development Initiative to find a solution to the community’s trash collection needs. Isfisor officials and USAID experts created the *State Communal Enterprise “Isfisor,”* the first public works department in Isfisor. The Enterprise is designed to provide a suite of public services, including trash collection and disposal. USAID worked with Isfisor officials to identify staffing requirements for each service, plan regular trash collection routes and schedules, draft standard service contracts for consumers, and identify appropriate service fees to ensure the long-term sustainability of the service.

USAID also trained local community officials in how to involve residents and generate popular support for the new services. Isfisor officials held 10 public meetings to introduce State Communal Enterprise “Isfisor” to the community. Isfisor officials described the planned services and discussed the fees that would support them. Over 400 families participated in these meetings and provided suggestions for improving the services.

Results

State Communal Enterprise “Isfisor” is now a sustainable public service provider. The community government manages the Enterprise and its activities with residents willing to pay service fees in exchange for quality services. Over 7,000 people in Isfisor now benefit from trash collection and disposal services. With the funding allocated to Isfisor for public services under the 2009 law, the Enterprise purchased a tractor and trailer to collect and dispose of the community’s trash. The Enterprise is already exploring the possibility of confronting access to water next.

Five other districts have learned about Isfisor’s experience at a USAID workshop on institutionalizing service delivery. Based on the success in Isfisor, USAID’s Local Development Initiative plans to replicate the program in other rural communities.