

DEMOCRATIZATION AND VALUATION OF HUMAN POTENTIAL

In 2019, the Urban Foundation contributed to more transparent governance and more active citizenship at local and national levels, in number of public sectors throughout Armenia.

Participatory Utilization and Resource Efficiency of Water (PURE-Water)

Through the 3-year USAID PURE Water project, the Urban Foundation led a sound intervention that contributed a lot to all stakeholders' behavior change in order to use decreasing groundwater resources more efficiently and productively. This has been done through intensive citizen participation, public education, sharing best practices by fisheries, drafting a number of laws in cooperation with decision-makers, helping water user associations and decision-makers to make water governance more transparent, using ICT tools, and improving drinking and irrigation water infrastructures.



MILESTONES REACHED

Improved water infrastructure

- **3,200** people have 24-hour water supply in Aratashen community of Armavir marz
- **13,400** people will live cleaner in Vedi (Ararat region) as a result of increasing green areas thanks to the installed drip irrigation system
- **10,000** people will benefit from improved irrigation system by mid-2020

Mobilized communities

- **5,300** people in 12 communities voiced the need for efficient water use and management.
- **2,600** people from 12 communities participated in the identification and monitoring of water-related problems.
- **2,200** people from 12 communities, including children from schools and kindergartens, have enriched their knowledge of efficient water management and use.
- **600,000** people in the Republic of Armenia became aware of the Ararat Valley problem.
- Armenia's water problem also was covered for the international audience:
<https://medium.com/globalwaters.org>.

Enabling environment for participatory water governance

A strategic document with a road map and 3 draft laws on:

- Water User Associations
- Ecological information
- Ecological policy

More transparent and accountable governance

- An online platform for water use permits for the RA Ministry of Environment
- Online information, complaints and recommendations platform on water issues for Vedi community
- Armavir Water User Association website: <http://armavirwua.am>
- An electronic phones survey instrument as oversight/feedback tool for 10 communities

Additional support from the global **Coca-Cola Foundation (CCF)** to enhance the USAID PURE Water activities.

CCF contributed to developing and disseminating public information materials on water resource management, organizing study tours to fisheries and wetland, providing training for schoolchildren and preparing targeted public service announcements to raise awareness and foster behavioral change among waters users and managers:

[Water Users: Find your way to save water](#)

[Drip Irrigation: Find your way to save water](#)

[Fish farms: Find your way to save water](#)

First Municipal Benchmarking Exercise in Armenia: Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing

In 2019, the Urban Foundation launched the Empowerment through Comparative Learning (**ECoLearn**) Project funded by the **Embassy of the Netherlands** in Tbilisi.

9 consolidated communities have been selected and trained to conduct a municipal benchmarking exercise in four areas:

- Solid waste management
- Citizen participation
- Pre-school education
- Social services

