

Tajikistan

Progress Report

Global Thematic Funds on WASH

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Water Flag/Parviz Boboev  
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Prepared by:  
UNICEF Tajikistan  
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B. Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CoES	Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
CIS	Community of Independent States
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
HDI	Human Development Index
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population
PCA	Programme Cooperation Agreements
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ThCTP	Tajikistan Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Funds
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

### C. Executive Summary

**In 2018 UNICEF Tajikistan reviewed its current Country Programme 2016-2020 and introduced a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme** component in order to address gaps and contribute to the progressive realization of the rights of the child and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including the SDG on water in cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan. UNICEF committed to address sub-optimal water supply and sanitation in schools and health facilities in a phased approach. Specifically, to ensure that by 2020, 50 per cent of the schools and 100 per cent of maternity centres in the country are WASH-compliant as per national standards. This is in response to the dire situation of WASH in health and education facilities where access to water and sanitation is a huge issue. 42 per cent of infant mortality rate caseload is attributed to lack of water and sanitation. Only 55 per cent of schools in the country have access to safe water; 83.8 per cent of toilets in schools being simple pit latrines. Lack of clean water for washing, inadequate quality toilets, lack of sanitary facilities and lack of privacy often discourages teenage girls from attending school.

The Government of Tajikistan increased its commitment towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including the SDG 6 on safe water. In June 2018, **Tajikistan hosted a High Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade of Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”** in Dushanbe. The conference produced a policy dialogue paper, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028, focused on the ways that solving water scarcity fits the mandate the Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNICEF was an active partner advocating for greater emphasis on WASH as a holistic approach and used the opportunity to advocate on child’s rights, particularly related to early childhood development and access to water for children, thus harnessing further support and political will by Government of Tajikistan as well as by development partners to invest in this field.

In preparation for the Conference, UNICEF supported initiatives that engaged **more than 2,500 boys and girls and adolescents whose skills were built on WASH**. These interventions helped children, adolescents and young people’s voices to be heard and their messages to be reflected in the final Conference “Call for Action” document.

**The overarching strategy of UNICEF is focused on policy advocacy for improved WASH in institutions and an integrated programme of WASH** through building a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population to implement relevant interventions at national and sub-national levels. Specifically, with the Global Thematic Funds and with other resources, UNICEF supported technical assessment and design of 20 maternities and 50 schools in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education and Science. The results of the technical assessment will inform the construction and rehabilitation of the water supply and sanitation facilities in 20 maternities and in 50 schools during 2019. In addition, UNICEF entered into partnership with the Republican Healthy Life Style Center and initiated the **design of hygiene promotion materials**, which will

be disseminated through schools in order to improve understanding and behavior of children, teachers and other stakeholders related to WASH.

Within the framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan's Goal Area 4 – Every Child Lives in a Safe and Clean Environment, the Global WASH Thematic Fund contributed to further strengthening cooperation with Government and partners to ensure timely and effective humanitarian action for affected populations and targeting the most vulnerable by advancing **Emergency Preparedness and Early Action capacity and developing a n action plan related to child-centered Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for the period 2019-2020**. UNICEF supported also the design of a humanitarian cash transfer programme, aiming to support the most vulnerable population affected by emergencies.

#### D. Strategic Context of 2018

The Republic of Tajikistan is a landlocked mountainous country in Central Asia and it is the poorest country in the Community of Independent States (CIS) region. Tajikistan's has a population of an estimated 8,931,000 (49 per cent female; almost 51 per cent male). Children from 0-6 years of age constitute 17.9 per cent of total population; 40.6 per cent are children under 18, and 66 per cent are young adults under 30, which makes the population of the country one of the youngest in Central Asia. About 900,000 children live below the national poverty line and more than 400,000 children faced extreme poverty in 2016 (<https://stat.tj/en/welfare-of-the-population>). Tajikistan made a step back from low-middle income country to a low-income country in 2018, according to a World Bank updated income classification. For every 100,000 live births, 32 women die from pregnancy-related causes; under-five mortality is 33 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the infant mortality rate is 27 deaths per 1,000 live births. Tajikistan's most recent Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.650, which puts the country in the medium human development category, ranked 127 out of 189 countries and territories. However, when the value is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.562, which signifies loss to human development due to inequality. The 2017 Gender Development Index (GDI) value for Tajikistan is 0.624 for females in contrast with 0.669 for males. There are clear socioeconomic inequities in accessing basic services across all social sectors.

Tajikistan is highly prone to various types of disasters such as avalanches, earthquakes, floods, mudflows and landslides—it is situated in a seismically high-risk zone, with an estimated 88.3 per cent of children living in areas of seismic hazard. While most natural disasters have a local, limited impact, the cumulative effect on livelihoods and economy is considerable, as is the number of human losses. Tajikistan is the most climate-vulnerable country in the region, mainly due to its high exposure to climate-related extreme events, its dependence on natural resources such as water and its low capacity to adapt, according to the World Bank.

The year 2018 marks half-way through the existing UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation (2016-2020) between the Government of Tajikistan and UNICEF, conceptualized around four pillars of the life cycle: 1) Surviving and thriving in the early years; 2) Inclusive and quality learning throughout childhood; 3) Adolescents empowered to fully participate; and 4) Protective environment for all children.

The SDG agenda has progressively gained great momentum in the country. Tajikistan has aligned its National Development Strategy (2016-2030) with the SDGs targets and its first Volunteer National Review was presented in 2017 at the High-Level Political Forum. In the same year, the Government of Tajikistan received the Concluding Observations on the report submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In September 2017, the Committee on the Rights of the Child considered the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Tajikistan on the status of CRC implementation. It was noted that Tajikistan has taken important steps to create the conditions to achieve its obligations for children within the SDG agenda. There is indeed a high degree of political will to fulfil the rights of all children, and as such, notable efforts have been made to articulate a significant number of strategies and plans benefiting children, as evidenced by Tajikistan's voluntary SDG reporting in 2017, including the SDG 6 related to water. More specifically, the Committee noted urgent and substantive steps to be taken in specific areas including preventing violence against children, promoting inclusive education, ensuring adequate services are available to children with disabilities, accelerating access to quality maternal and child health services including water and sanitation.

Water and sanitation for children remains a big concern in the country with many development partners focusing on water component with policy and infrastructure as priorities. Access to water and sanitation at community level, including maternity wards and schools as well as households is neglected areas. 42 per cent of infant mortality rate caseload is attributed to lack of water and sanitation at community level. The sanitation situation in several schools across the country remains equally dire. Many schools in Tajikistan have access to piped water sources in their yard only; many rely on open drinking water sources around the school, posing a health risk to children. Sanitation facilities are generally available on site for schools in Tajikistan, however, they are usually basic pit latrines situated outside the school buildings. Only 55 per cent of schools in the country have access to safe water; lack of safe drinking water is a crucial factor for 25 per cent of students who failed to attend or dropped out of school. A mere 48 per cent of schools have access to a functioning water supply system and 86 per cent of schools have separate toilets for boys and girls, with 83.8 per cent of these toilets being simple pit latrines. An Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) School Mapping Study carried out in 2006 noted that about 26 per cent of schools in urban and 50 per cent percent of schools in rural areas of Tajikistan do not have access to piped water as a primary source of drinking water within the school compound. Chemical quality of the drinking water is lower in rural areas. Thus, rural students are more likely to consume water with higher concentrations of inorganic salts, organic matter, and traces of heavy metals. Moreover, availability and quality of sanitation facilities are significantly lower in rural areas as well. Sanitation is an important factor, especially for teenage girls. Many schools in Tajikistan have very basic latrines and lack washing facilities. Lack of clean water for washing, inadequate quality toilets, lack of sanitary facilities and lack of privacy often discourages teenage girls from attending school. In a UNICEF 2015 study of girls who had dropped out of school or were at risk of dropping out, 18 per cent of the girls interviewed mentioned poor sanitation facilities as a reason why they have missed school.

According to the 2017 World Bank School WASH Survey, most of the sanitation facilities (59 per cent) in schools consist of pit latrines with slabs. Only 7 per cent of schools have a flush to sewer system, and none of the rural schools have a flush toilet connected to the sewer system. In rural areas, unimproved latrines are more common. About 26 per cent of rural schools have a pit latrine without a proper slab, as opposed

to only 11 per cent in urban areas. Availability of soap in schools for handwashing at critical times is limited; nationally, 34 per cent did not have soap available. In addition, lack of water in schools often prevents the staff from preparing food for children because they cannot clean the kitchen and utensils after preparing meals adding nutrition challenges to children from poorer and food insecure households.

WASH sector problems in Tajikistan are as complex, which are compounded by multiple system-level factors (poor technical/technological and managerial capacity for procurement / construction of WASH facilities; unaffordable cost of sector development needs; highly inefficient water use partly due to tariff structure and inefficient revenue collection for cost recovery; absence of public institutions with good governance and transparency to manage the sector and attract private sector investment, etc.).

There is consensus that despite significant investments in infrastructure development by international partners, WASH is an area of great concern in Tajikistan, at community level. The lack of proper WASH constitutes also a gap and a missing link in the theory of change of both mother and child health and nutrition programming and in transition in education. Whereas there is no clear leadership in the WASH sector, UNICEF appears to be well positioned to address the equity gap in education and health facilities.

Tajikistan remains a champion of the “water for life” international initiatives. In June 2018, the country hosted a High Level International Conference within the framework of the International Decade of Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” in Dushanbe, following the launch of the International Decade for Action at UN Headquarters earlier in March. Meetings and symposia during the Conference centred on the ways in which Member States, relevant UN bodies, specialized agencies, regional commissions and organizations of the UN system, as well as other relevant partners, including the private sector, can contribute to the Decade of Action. The conference also produced a policy dialogue paper, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028, including the ways that solving water scarcity fits the mandate the Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a communique by all attendees. UNICEF was an active partner advocating for greater emphasis on WASH as a holistic approach and used the opportunity to advocate on child’s rights, particularly related to early childhood development and access to water for children thus harnessing further support and political will by Government of Tajikistan as well as by development partners to invest in this field in a result-oriented manner.

UNICEF is championing the SDG agenda for children with focus on resourcing, planning, and monitoring. Support to national partners to mainstream localization of SDG targets is contributing to building partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (also in charge of planning, SDGs, National Development Strategy 2030 and United Nations Development Assistance Framework) that holds overall responsibility for the SDG reporting. The 2016-2020 Country Programme for UNICEF Tajikistan aligned with and supported key Government of Tajikistan policies, strategies and initiatives. The programme results are also aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan and are contributing to eight out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1 to 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17). The country programme aims to accelerate progress towards the realization of the rights of all children, with special attention given to closing equity gaps through four components at different stages of their life cycle.

UNICEF in its Strategic Moment of Reflection 2018 decided to reintroduce a WASH programme to address

the issues that affect children’s health, nutrition and learning. With a long-term objective of ensuring that all households, schools and health facilities in Tajikistan have access to “safely managed” drinking water and sanitation facilities, UNICEF committed to address sub-optimal water supply and sanitation in schools and health facilities in a phased approach. Specifically, to ensure that by 2020, 50 per cent of the schools and 100 per cent of maternity centres in the country are WASH-compliant as per national standards.

The overarching strategy of UNICEF is focused on policy advocacy for improved WASH in institutions and an integrated programme of WASH hardware and hygiene and sanitation promotion to improve access of women and children in selected areas across Tajikistan. To achieve the above, UNICEF works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Education and science and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population to implement relevant interventions at national and sub-national levels. Specifically, UNICEF supports the rehabilitation, improvement or provision of WASH infrastructures in schools and health facilities with the aim of ensuring that all maternity units and 250 schools across the country have adequate WASH facilities that meet national standard by 2024. In addition, UNICEF will support the development of standards and generation of evidence that will inform quality regulation, decision making and budgets for investment in WASH in institutions.

#### E. Results Achieved in the Sector

To address gaps and contribute to the progressive realization of the rights of the child and in achieving the SDGs, including the SDG on water, UNICEF Tajikistan has introduced a WASH in Institutions component in the remaining part of its country program of cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan 2018-2020. The introduction of this programme component is a response to the situation and the request from government to support the design and implementation of WASH programme and a belief that improvement of WASH infrastructure at health facilities and schools, coupled with hygiene promotion intervention, will contribute to reducing infant deaths, preventing communicable diseases among children and increasing school attendance, especially by girls.

***Amplified Advocacy on WASH*** - Global Thematic Funds were critical in UNICEF advocacy and engagement with government and development partners in 2018, which led to the convening of the “Children’s Water Forum” as part of the High-Level International Conference “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” in June 2018. This forum highlighted the importance of water for children. Moreover, UNICEF with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) ran UPSHIFT Youth Challenge on WASH allowing adolescent girls and boys to express their views on WASH problems in the country and mobilize communities through their innovative solutions. UNICEF in Tajikistan, in cooperation with the State Committee on Youth Affairs, also launched a co-creation contest using the UPSHIFT approach within the framework of Global Partnership Generation Unlimited, as one of 16 pilot countries globally. The UNICEF-led, WASH-themed UPSHIFT labs, which attracted more than 600 adolescents from different parts of the country and whose proposed solutions and innovative products were showcased during the Conference as a side event.

Within the framework of this conference, UNICEF supported the Government to organize a number of events dedicated to children in ensuring children access to safe water and sanitation are given

prominence. As part of this initiative, three nationwide interventions were carried out, including “**Children’s Voices**”- hearing the voices of children concerned about water; “**The best investment on earth: “Early Childhood Development and WASH”**”- hearing the voices of Early Childhood Development (ECD) experts, and “**The Youth Innovation Challenge**”- showcasing the best local wash solutions by Tajikistan's most innovative young people. All of this amplified the voices of children and young people to all participants of the Conference. The Conference itself was attended by several heads of state, including those of Pakistan and Turkmenistan, and over 1,500 delegates from some 100-member states at various levels, as well as representatives of numerous institutions and organizations. The week-long Water Conference to re-commit global stakeholders to achieving SDG6 was a great success, and UNICEF's contribution was appreciated. Overall, more than 2,500 boys and girls and adolescents were engaged in UNICEF-led initiatives, and this helped them build their competences and skills on WASH. These interventions also helped children, adolescents and young people bring to the attention of World Leaders their key messages<sup>1</sup> and ensure that important follow-up actions<sup>2</sup> are part of the final Conference “Call for Action and Partnership Document”.

In addition, the **Children's Water Flag**, a composition of water-themed paintings by children in every district across the country was unveiled and on display during the Conference week. The Flag is a symbol of the vision and hope of Tajikistan's youngest citizens that every child, everywhere, should have access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, one of the pillars of the SDGs, and a fundamental right of all children. In September 2019, the Children's Water Flag was unveiled in the National Museum of Tajikistan as a final coda to the June international conference on the decade of action on water and will be on exhibit in the museum for the duration of the decade. A transportable, high quality silk version of the flag (6m x 12m) is also available for display at any subsequent global events connected to the international decade of water.

***Integrated WASH programme*** - Building on the advocacy efforts on WASH, the results of the Conference and a strengthened partnership, UNICEF designed an integrated WASH programme consisting of rehabilitation work of health and education facilities, combined with hygiene promotion and in creating a safe environment for children. The Global Thematic Funds contributed primarily to introducing the WASH in school component in cooperation with the MoES and identified the first 50 schools, based on agreed criteria, to benefit from the first phase of the UNICEF supported WASH programme in Tajikistan. UNICEF in cooperation with the MoES entered into agreement with a national research institute of construction and architecture to **conduct technical assessment of the schools, to design and to develop bill of quantities for each target school**. During the technical assessment, the technical experts visited each target schools and collected information about water sources, existing water supply system, sanitation facilities and current conditions. The results of technical assessment will inform a scaled implementation of the first phase of WASH interventions in schools. Following this assessment and design,

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<sup>1</sup> Key messages: (i) “without achieving SDG6 for children, the states won't achieve the SDGs overall”; (ii) “children have a key role to play in the solution and should be consulted and engaged”

<sup>2</sup> Follow-up action: “Young people should have more opportunities to bring innovative, sustainable ideas to their families and communities to help solve water, sanitation and hygiene issues”; (ii) “to make sure that children and young people are given meaningful spaces to share their voices”

the tender will be announced for the **construction/rehabilitation of the water supply and sanitation facilities, which will benefit some 25,000 school children.**

During this reporting period, UNICEF entered into partnership with the Republican Healthy Life Style Center on hygiene promotion and managed to review various training and education materials including modules, training manuals, promotional materials related to hygiene promotion. Following a thorough review and analysis of all collected materials, **a comprehensive extra curricula programme for WASH in school and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)** will be developed and disseminated for different targeted groups, such as school children, adolescent girls, teachers and community. The design and dissemination of the WASH materials and MHM will be carried out in partnership with the World Bank, which will include capacity building measures to ensure that behaviors are practiced routinely in school setting, focusing on handwashing with soap in critical times and mainstreaming activities to support MHM. Specific attention will be paid to MHM, as lack of knowledge, taboos, social norms, and inadequate WASH facilities are negatively impacting adolescent girls' school attendance and learning effectiveness. The extra-curriculum program for WASH in schools and guidelines will be applied in 50 schools supported by UNICEF and in 150 schools supported by the WB's Rural Water and Sanitation Project, which consequently will be scaled-up in the future to address the key issues that affect public health and negative effects in education.

Considering the complexity of WASH programme, UNICEF expanded its partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, which is one of the partners for the policy development, regulation and coordination of the water sector and with relevant government departments and other development partners to conduct **a mapping of WASH in health and education institutions.**

***Advanced Emergency Preparedness*** -To overcome impending climate change and disaster problems, it is important to address inadequate human and institutional capacity required to effectively reduce and manage disaster and climate change risks and impacts. It is also critical to build community resilience. Furthermore, preparing Tajikistan for disasters and climate hazards and impacts requires a better understanding of potential situations as well as specific risks to Tajikistan of disasters and climate change CC as well as fit-for-context Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) options available to weather them.

UNICEF Global WASH Thematic Fund have also contributed to further strengthening cooperation with Government and partners to ensure timely and effective humanitarian action for affected populations and targeting the most vulnerable. This is being advanced in the context of emergency preparedness measures, the promotion of DRR and CCA with specific focus on youth/children's participation and development.

**Partnership with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES)** on advancing Emergency Preparedness and Early Action Capacity and promoting Child-Centred DRR and CCA in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2019-2020. In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action benchmarks, UNICEF is investing significantly in enhancing its own and its partners' emergency preparedness capacity for predictable early action by developing joint response

plans (as part of contingency planning process); replenishing & joint distribution of emergency supplies to children and their families living in disaster-prone areas; and pre-positioning them at higher risk zones; testing the Contingency Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) modalities through the full-fledged and table-top simulation exercises, etc. This intervention aims at increasing the level of preparedness and enhance our joint ability to support the Government of Tajikistan in effective emergency preparedness and response to be able to reach the most vulnerable children and their families and protect their rights during humanitarian situations. In 2018 alone, UNICEF Tajikistan provided lifesaving humanitarian assistance to the population affected by floods and mudflows in Pyanj and Farkhor districts, and reached 5,040 affected peoples, including 3,175 children with WASH related emergency supplies, including hygiene kits, water tanks and canisters, water purification tablets, C4D materials, etc. As UNICEF Tajikistan's response is mostly carried out through government institutions, it not only provided emergency relief to affected populations but also strengthened the capacity of the basic social service systems to prepare and respond to future emergencies. The planned interventions for 2019-2020 are also focused on greater involvement of children and youth in Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), DRR and CCA by enhancing their understanding of disaster/climate change risks, mitigation, prevention and preparedness measures (based on project-based learning approach and life skills-based education).

UNICEF is currently in the process of signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding (UNICEF, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, CoES and Ministry of Health and Social Protection) to pilot the **Tajikistan Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme (ThCTP)**, which aims at linking Government's Social Protection system with Disaster Management/Response Mechanism (using existing and tested systems, instruments and business processes) for the provision of cost-effective and efficient humanitarian assistance. ThCTP model is currently being fine-tuned and will be ready for testing shortly. The initiative aims at avoiding negative coping mechanisms amongst the poorest and most vulnerable population affected by emergencies and promote positive behaviors with dignity and freedom of choice. Given the amount of resources available and the learning requirements of the pilot, it is suggested for the ThCTP to be tested to respond to an emergency crisis affecting between 250 and 350 households. At the policy level, UNICEF Tajikistan supported the development of the National DRR Strategy. This now has a strong focus on resilience and risk reduction rather than disaster management alone

#### F. Results Framework

UNICEF WASH programme is aligned to the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021, it contributes directly to Goal Area 4 - Every Child Lives in a Safe and Clean Environment, as well as to the Goal Area 1 (Every Child Survives and Thrives) and Goal Area 2 (Every Child Learns) and is designed to support the Government of Tajikistan with the achievement of the WASH-related outcomes, such as:

1. Reduced infant mortality and neonatal mortality through improved access of mothers and their newborn babies to safe drinking water/hygiene and sanitation facilities in maternity units of hospitals across Tajikistan;
2. Increased access to safe drinking water, improved hygiene and sanitation facilities and facilitate adoption of good hygiene and sanitation practices for children in schools across Tajikistan and

3. Generated evidence to inform planning, policy, state resource allocation and mobilization for WASH in institutions.

In order to achieve the above mentioned programme outcomes, the following strategies and interventions are defined: i) improving WASH facilities in schools, ii) improving WASH facilities in maternities/health care facilities, and iii) supporting behavior change and WASH education including addressing MHM in schools. In pursuing the above, UNICEF works closely with the MoES, the MoHSPP, as well as its subordinate Healthy Lifestyle Centre, as well as other stakeholders. UNICEF has a track record in analytical and advisory work and as a global knowledge broker in WASH.

#### G. Future Work Plan

UNICEF through its collaboration with the Healthy Life Style Centre will support the MoES and the MoHSP in improving the WASH situation in selected maternities and schools as well as in development a comprehensive extra-curricular educational package for WASH behaviors in school, including mainstreaming activities to support MHM education. The extra-curricular WASH education package will focus on child-centered age-appropriate peer-to-peer learning, engage teachers in its delivery, strengthen school management for WASH facility maintenance, and will engage parents in the promotion of WASH behaviors at home, specifically female caregivers on MHM. UNICEF will facilitate working groups with relevant government stakeholders and other partners and ensure that all the developed materials are endorsed and approved by the relevant government agencies. UNICEF will also carry out a Knowledge Attitude and Practices survey in schools that will be supported under the WASH program. The programme interventions will be a vehicle to implement training for school staff (teachers and school management to promote WASH behaviors including MHM. The interventions will support capacity building for rolling out the extra-curricular program for WASH in schools – including MHM, as well as the production of relevant training, promotion and education booklets and materials.

Thorough reflection on the lessons learned from the past programming and their incorporation into the future intervention designs will be critical during the implementation of the WASH programme. UNICEF will pay particular attention to the approach taken in the previous Country Programme focusing on the construction of WASH facilities in the selected health and education facilities by giving consideration to the issues of quality, appropriate technology, maintenance, and sustainable financing to produce sustainable results.

#### H. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Tajikistan recognizes the contribution of the resource partners, which was of critical importance to design the WASH programme and to start implementation of interventions that will have a positive impact of the lives and wellbeing of children and their effective learning. The flexibility of the Global Thematic Funds has enabled to ensure space for achieving key results in the WASH programme in Tajikistan and to widen the partnership beyond this project.