

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Water supply – Kosovo

Clean drinking water for Pristina and the surrounding area

After hostilities ended in 1999, rapid population growth combined with high levels of unemployment resulted in a wave of migration to the cities. Levels of migration to the capital were particularly high, and it was not long before Pristina's utilities were unable to cope with the rising demand. KfW Development Bank is financing the expansion of the water and waste water systems in and around Pristina with the aim of improving conditions for the people living there.

Investment was also required in building up a more efficient water supply system. Necessary maintenance and modernisation work has not been carried out due to insufficient financing and inefficient structures. As a result, 10 % of the population are supplied with water from tankers due to the altitude where they live and insufficient water pressure. There are cases in which water is siphoned off illegally. In 2008, no income was generated for 73 % of the water produced.

Project approach

KfW is financing investment in Kosovo's water supply and waste water disposal systems on behalf of the

Background

The number of people living in Pristina rose from 225,000 in 1999 to around 380,000 in 2008. Pristina and the surrounding municipalities are supplied with water by the regional water company. In 2014 there were 540,000 people living in the supplied territory. The population growth put too much pressure on the antiquated water supply and waste water disposal networks, with running water only available for 12 hours out of the day during the hot and dry summer months in particular. Exceptional circumstances quickly led to water shortages.

The period from June 2012 to March 2014, for example, saw much lower levels of rainfall than in the past. As a result, the availability of drinking water was limited to six hours a day at times. In February 2014, water levels in the Batllava and Badovc reservoirs – Pristina's most important sources of water – fell to 25 % of their normal measurements. The drought showed that Pristina and its surrounding municipalities require additional sources in order to provide the population with a reliable supply of drinking water and conserve water resources.

Project name	Water supply and waste water disposal in Pristina
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	Kosovo
Lead executing agency	The Kosovan government





Gazivoda Lake is to be exploited as an additional source of drinking water for Pristina. Source: KfW/Dr Karl-Dankwart Kummer

German federal government. A total of EUR 50 million has been made available for the project from German federal government and EU funds, with a further EUR 10 million being contributed by Kosovo/Pristina.

The financing of the project was made possible to a certain extent by the Development Bank of Austria sharing in the risk to the amount of EUR 10 million for KfW's development loan. This makes the project a good example of successful collaboration and coordination among donors.

The first of a number of projects implemented as part of the programme was launched in 2008. In order to improve the infrastructure and reduce the volume of unaccounted for water, the work started with the replacement of two defective main supply pipelines and the dilapidated distribution network in Tophane, the oldest part of the city. A total of 18,000 new house connections and water meters were installed. A new pumping station was also set up. Other construction measures are in progress, for example the modernisation of the Badovc water treatment plant. Another source of water is to be tapped in the form of the Gazivoda reservoir. The water from the Gazivoda reservoir, situated 50 km to the north of Pristina, is to be channelled to the Pristina region via the Iber Canal and prepared for human consumption in a new facility. This drinking water will be fed into Pristina's supply system using new main transportation pipelines.

Impact

The aim of the measures is to safeguard a continuous and hygienic supply of drinking water for Pristina and

the surrounding area for decades to come – including during the summer months. Since the project started, the availability of the water supply in Pristina has already increased from 12 to 18 hours a day.

The construction of the Kodra pumping station (a minor sub-measure within the programme) means that water can now be reliably supplied to the 6,000 inhabitants of the high-altitude Kodra district.

This has increased the number of the water utility company's customers by 15 %. Pristina's regional water utility company has been able to steadily increase the coverage of its operation and maintenance costs since 2008.

Further substantial effects are expected once the infrastructure is in place and operational: More people will be connected to the public water supply, and interruptions to the supply of water will be reduced even further. The measures also help conserve water resources. All of this reduces the general risk of future supply shortages, which would mainly impact the poor.



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