

DOES THE PROGRAMME COVER WATER SUPPLY, AS WELL AS WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL?

The programme aims to link water supply and wastewater treatment. Without proper wastewater treatment there can be no safe water supply.

WHO IS TAKING CARE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE?

In the semi-urban areas the municipal utilities will be reorganized, the staff will be trained, equipped and the services will be improved. In the villages the villagers and other water/wastewater system users and user groups will be assisted, equipped and trained in order to manage operation and maintenance of the micro systems.

WHO IS PAYING FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE?

Currently, as well as in the future the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara will finance a substantial part of operation and maintenance of water supply and wastewater treatment systems. All citizens in Ajara - in the semi-urban areas and in villages will however contribute financially based on an adequate tariff system. Thanks to the financial contribution of all citizens, the new infrastructure can function properly, electricity costs and salaries can be paid and service quality can be maintained on a high level.

HOW IS IT ENSURED THAT THE PROJECTS HAVE LONG LASTING EFFECT?

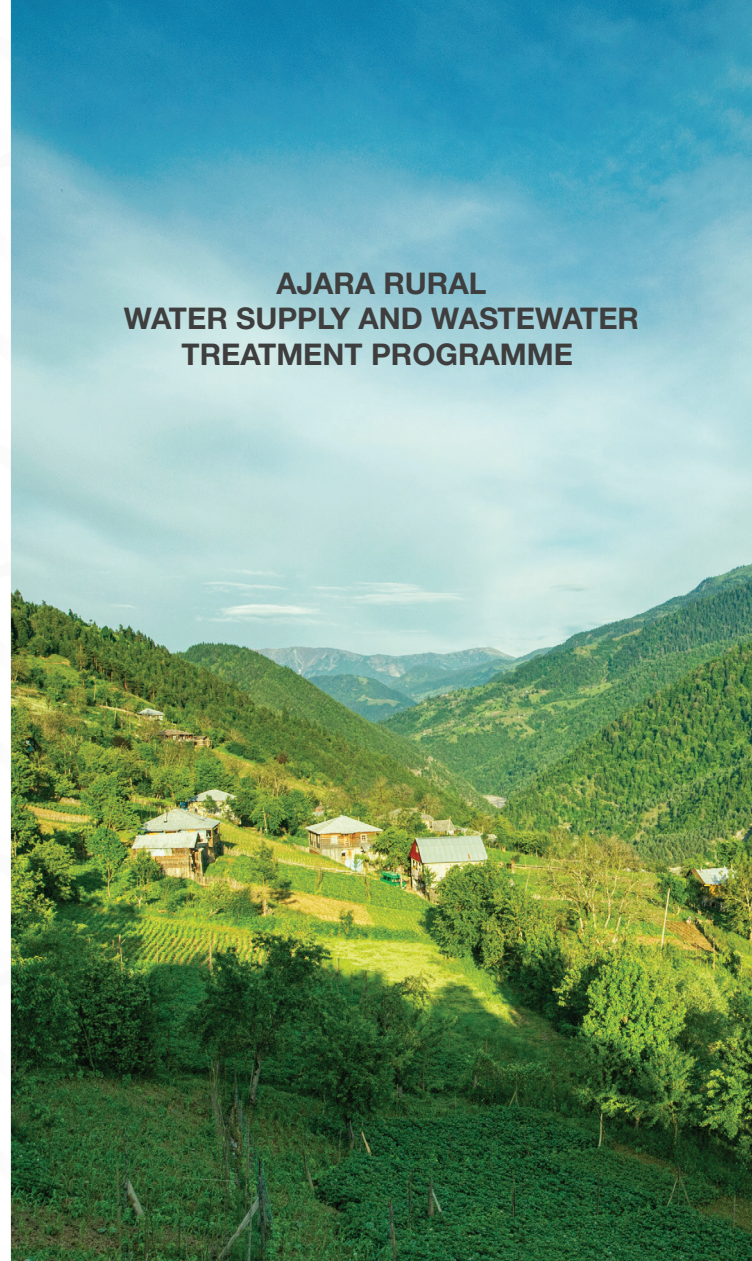
The programme implies proper assessment of the situation and the needs of the citizens, high quality of design, based on international (EU) and national standards, full compliance with KfW Environmental and Social Requirements, full compliance with the international Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

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AJARA RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROGRAMME



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The European Union for Georgia



KfW



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Ajara Rural Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Programme is co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Development Bank) and the European Union. The programme budget is EUR 59,5 million.

WHO WILL IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME?

The Programme is implemented by the Ajara Water Alliance (AWA), a Joint Stock Company, owned by all Ajara Municipalities and the Government of Ajara. The AWA is assisted by two consulting teams, one focusing on investments in the semi-urban areas and another consultant focusing on investments in the villages – outside the semi-urban areas and also providing training assistance to the AWA, the Ajara municipalities and the village user groups. The AWA is implementing the projects in each municipality with a dedicated AWA-municipality working group.

WHAT AREA DOES THE PROGRAMME COVER?

The programme covers all district municipalities in Ajara – Keda, Khulo, Khelvachauri, Shuakhevi and Kobuleti. It aims to create water and wastewater supply system in all municipalities, except for the cities Kobuleti and Batumi.

THE PROGRAMME HAS TWO MAIN FINANCING PILLARS:

Centralized water supply and wastewater systems in the semi-urban areas and decentralized water supply and wastewater systems outside the semi-urban areas in the villages. Centralized systems signify that the semi-urban area is supplied by a centralized system for water: adequate intake, water supply treatment plant, disinfection, reservoirs, network and adequate house connections equipped with water meters, as well as centralized wastewater collection systems, WWTP and sludge management.

Decentralized water supply in the villages signifies small (micro) water supply systems, adequate intake from spring, well or surface water, disinfection, a small reservoir and adequate house connections. After the system is supply works properly and without interruption, the connected citizens will also be equipped with a water meter.

Appropriate wastewater systems will be introduced to the citizens in the villages. This includes toilets, house connections and decentralized (micro) small wastewater treatment plants or other appropriate wastewater treatment and disposal systems, such as separation toilets, composting and agricultural use of sludge.



WHY INTRODUCTION OF TOILETS IN THE VILLAGES IS A BIG BENEFIT?

The introduction of toilets and appropriate treatment of sludge in the villages will allow the citizens to further develop eco-tourism, convert additional rooms in the house into guest rooms, create employment opportunities and generate family income. The proper management of wastewater and sludge will stop the contamination of the ground water and surface water necessary for drinking water supply, the beautiful environment in rural Ajara will be protected and the hygiene and health of the families in the villages will be improved.

HOW IS IT ENSURED THAT THE PROJECTS REALLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS?

The programme is based on very active participation of all citizens. The municipality is actively participating in the AWA PEA Working Group, every citizen can participate in community meetings, ask questions, request information and explain the specific situation of the village and family to make sure that the AWA properly understands the needs and can appropriately develop solutions.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME?

The programme is designed to meet the needs of all interested citizens living in Rural Ajara. The participation in the programme depends on the interest and voluntary participation of the village residents. As the program budget will not be sufficient for all villages in all Ajara municipalities, it is recommended that you and your fellow villagers express the interest in participating for improved water supply and the introduction of appropriate wastewater in your village.