Access to Safe Water and Ecological Sanitation for Rural Areas
Local Action - Bulgaria

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Rural Bulgaria, Major Characteristics

- Rural areas occupy 81% of country’s territory; 42% of the population (WB, 2004);
- GDP per capita in rural areas is twice lower than in towns, while the level of unemployment is two times higher (WB, 2004);
- Much worse demographic and health indicators in rural areas compared to urban areas (NSI, 2002).

Mexico, 19 March 2006
Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Villages

- 84% supplied with tapped water in-house; 4% do not have tapped water in the village;
- 1/3 of the population served by interrupted water supply;
- 2% have sewers, 30% have some wastewater management (usually soakaways); 68% have no wastewater management at all.

*Mexico, 19 March 2006*
126,000 people living in rural areas do not have tapped water supply in the village;
1,008,000 people living in rural areas have no wastewater management at all.

Mexico, 19 March 2006
Access to Safe Water and Ecological Sanitation for Rural Areas

Drinking Water Quality (Sulitsa, Bulgaria)

Concentration of nitrates in drinking water, village Sulitsa, Central Bulgaria (2001-2005)

Concentration of nitrates, regular monitoring
Maximum allowed concentration by Law

Mexico, 19 March 2006
“Improved” Urban Sanitation

“Flush” Toilet – Bulgarian Know-How

Mexico, 19 March 2006
Sanitation in Villages and Small Towns

- Pit latrines and soakaways;
- Overflowing septic pits;
- Increased hygienic requirements;
- Constantly rising volumes of wastewater and solid wastes.
- Low human capacity to address the problem: capacity building at all levels;
- Low financial capacity: need for low-cost, innovative solutions.

Mexico, 19 March 2006
“Improved” Rural Sanitation (Bulgaria)

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“Improved” Rural Sanitation (Bulgaria)

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Constructed wetland for wastewater treatment

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Urine diverting toilet

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Future of Rural and Small Town Sanitation

- EcoSan, EnviroSan, etc.

- Innovative low-cost technologies;
- Meeting hygienic standards;
- Environmentally friendly.

Mexico, 19 March 2006
Access to Safe Water and Ecological Sanitation for Rural Areas

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Mexico, 19 March 2006