

The Right to Water and Sanitation

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- ***The Right to Drinking Water:***

- Water is a primary need for the survival of human life and it is a priority in the programs and activities of the governments and international organizations. Safe potable water and environmental sanitation are economic and social rights and everyone needs adequate, standard quality of potable water to ensure their healthy life.. Water should be continuously available to meet human needs, such as drinking, personal hygiene, washing, cooking, and health. The quality of water is also very important and water should be free of all forms of pollution and contamination that are harmful to human health.
- Afghanistan Millennium Development Goal has required the Afghan Government to reduce 50% the number of persons who do not have access to safe potable water by 2020. Also according to Afghanistan MDG, 50 percent of families in Kabul and 30 percent of families in other urban areas will have access to tap water, 90 percent of villages will have access to drinking water, and 50 percent of villages will have access to sanitation by 1391 (2012/13).

- General Department of Water Supply (GDWS) is responsible for urban water supply, has been able to provide safe drinking water for only 30 percent of the country's urban-dwellers, according to the GDWS.
- GDWS had a daily capacity to produce 45,000 cubic meters of safe water at the national level, but this has now increased to 155,939 cubic meters of safe water (29 percent). This is an increase of 29 percent compared to the last two years.
- According to the GDWS, currently 35 percent of produced water is wasted because of technical problems, while the wastage has been around 65 to 70 percent in the past.
- GDWS has a daily capacity to produce 44,020 cubic meters of water in Kabul and 111,919 cubic meters of water nationally. This daily production of water is in ***no way adequate***, because the country needs 910,000 cubic meters of safe water per day.
- According to GDWS, Herat city has the highest level of access to safe water and Zabul and Mehtarlam cities have the least access.

- Sultan Hussain Hesari, Acting Minister of Urban Development, has said that 70 percent of Kabul's residents lack access to safe potable water. According to him, digging of deep water wells causes dry-out of Kabul's under ground water reservoirs.
- According to the AIHRC Human Rights Field Monitoring in 2008-09, 33.7 percent, in 2009-10, 39.2 percent, and in 2010-11), 55.6 percent of interviewees reported that the water they were using was not healthy and clean. It means that people's access to safe potable water has been decreasing and the number of such families increases annually.
- Presently 21 major cities have relative water supply grids and only 30 percent of interviewees said that they use tap water. However, in the AIHRC HRFM, 7.7 percent of interviewees said that they had to wait for over *an hour* in queue to get water.
- Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, has said that eight provinces in the north face potable water shortages due to drought and that water tanks will be provided to those provinces. According to the Minister, generally speaking, 17 provinces encounter potable water shortages, to which water tanks will be transferred.



- Director of Water Supply, Sanitary Education, and Environmental Sanitation of MoRRD stated that MoRRD, in cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has constructed 1,941 deep and semi-deep water wells and 31 water supply grids in different parts of the country as part of the water supply and irrigation scheme, making healthy drinking water available for 534,688 people.
- In addition, over 3,000 potable water sources were funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and constructed by private companies in the past two years, making safe potable water and sanitary services available for over 500,000 people in rural areas.
- In 2010-11, MoRRD alone built 396 semi-deep water wells and 11 water supply grids across the country, supplying safe potable water to 301,625

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