The Dearth

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March 20, 2011

Children's Vulnerability to Social and Political Challenges

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December 01, 2011

The Dearth of Rudimentary Requirements

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Investment in Water Infrastructure

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February 22, 2012

Water is the foundation of life but no major investment has taken place to fight against widespread water infrastructural challenges. Authorities are cognizant of the fact that people have access to improved drinking water, and about 68% of the Afghan population is supplied with safe water. According to the Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization, overall 35% of Afghans are surface water users, which is an improvement from 25% in 2002. 20% of the population relies on treated or untreated ground water supply. The rest (traditional latrines). The latrines are a better option than open defecation as they include a primary sanitation option, which results in disease prevention from human contact and do not dispose of the waste into the water sources. However, they fail to cope with the demography of the country where the population density is so high that these systems do not function efficiently and are difficult to use. For children the task is particularly arduous and tiring. The water sources are heavily dependent on annual rain, snowfall and drought are also severely affecting water supplies. Climate change is also affected both shallow and groundwater levels. In major urban areas, most of the water supply is cut off due to the war and hence children do not have access to clean drinking water. The water is contaminated with faecal matter, which results in epidemics. More than 50% of the population is at risk of water-related diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid and hepatitis. The rural areas are even more affected as 70% of people living in the countryside do not have access to clean drinking water despite billions of dollars spent on water infrastructure.

To overcome the issue, the government needs to invest in water infrastructure throughout the country. There is a need for an integrated plan which should also include the control of medical waste and wastewater management. This will help in the reduction of diseases such as cholera and dysentery. Water sources should be distributed through pipelines and tanks needs clusters of water tanks should be constructed in different urban areas which should also include the control of medical waste and wastewater management.

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