

AFGHANISTAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2011

The Forgotten Front: Water Security and the Crisis in Sanitation



Afghanistan has sufficient water to meet the domestic, industry, environment, and agriculture use but due governance challenges, it is unable to use the water for the human development of its citizen. Consequently, Afghans are suffering from poor health and loss of livelihood and (6 children die of diarrhea every hour); drought (many migrate to neighboring countries to find jobs as their land is left fallow; droughts (loss of livelihood/property); conflict (over water sharing); 27% have access to safe drinking water source, 5% have access to improved sanitation. Afghans are extremely vulnerable to water shocks (drought/floods) irrigation water is not shared with equity. Upstream land can access more water and grow rice and make more money while the downstream lands can not even grow beans for household use. This is a source of conflict. Government and donors have ignore the have ignore the water sector. The government political commitment is missing. The donor have only allocated 5% of development aid to the water sector.