

Water problems in Afghanistan and the efforts of the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry

The problem of water shortage and groundwater depletion in Afghanistan is a serious issue

Drinking water problem

According to a US Geological Survey Groundwater levels in Afghanistan had fallen below 1.4 m since the year 2004 - 2012, and have subsequently declined by as much as 20 m due to continuous drought for this reason, many of the wells have dried up, while digging wells is not an easy task and costs between 50 to 100 thousand Afghanis.

Lack of drinking water is a global problem, According to a UN report, by the year 2025, the number of people whom won't have access to clean drinking water worldwide will reach to 1.8 billion.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of Afghanistan has been supplying drinking water to residents of this country since 2002.

In one past year, 696 wells have been dug to provide drinking water by MRRD and these efforts and activities continue rapidly. In 2019 MRRD handed over 511 water supply projects including digging water wells, installation of hand pumps and construction of water supply networks.

According to ministry's officials, four years ago the percentage of people's access to clean drinking water was 42% and now it has increased to 54%.

The Citizens' Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP) of MRRD which is one of the key national priority programs of the National Unity Government is committed to develop and implement strategies and plans in drinking water provision. And it is expected that all Afghans receive and benefit from the clean water. On the other hand, the Afghan government is committed to the international community for creating opportunities for all citizens to have access to potable water in 2030

Lack of clean water has forced some people to leave their homes and places of residence and on the other hand, the use of foul water has caused many diseases, daily 133 children die by drinking foul water in Afghanistan

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development not only provides drinking water for villagers it has also implemented projects aimed giving Immigrant families access to clean water throughout the country.

Besides providing drinking water, this ministry is also committed to improve the water quality and materials used in water supply projects.

Problems with irrigation systems

It is clear that the forty years of internal wars have destroyed traditional irrigation systems

No Canal was left, no Careaz , no convert and no water reservoir . Around 40 percent of Afghanistan's water reservoirs are reported to have dried up due to recent drought.

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development is working hard to rebuild destroyed irrigation systems and preform new activities in this area.

In Current year more than 243 irrigation projects have been implemented by this ministry, which include drilling canals, clearing Careaze and constructing converts, Water fountains and reservoirs.

Over all in the first five months of the current year, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has implemented and handed over at a cost of more than \$ 20 million, 754 irrigation and drinking water supply projects. Of which at least 993,909 villagers have been benefited.