

Welcome to One day seminar of Water Supply and Sanitation

MRRD has the responsibility to see that all Afghans living in the rural areas have access to safe water supply.

This is not easy because:

- Rural population is close to 20 million people today.
- The service coverage has nationally reached about 39. This means that 61% still lacks access to safe water supply. (or about 15 million people)
- Through many of the MRRD programs water supply coverage have been extended. NSP and RuWatSIP is working hard in providing resources and support to close the service gap.

We are aware that we have far to go. Though this workshop we hope to have the opportunity to make a stop and think, discuss and make some brief assessment of achievement over the last 10-15 years and to see if we actually are reaching out goals.

Our goals for water supply and sanitation, whether this be in rural and urban areas would be that all Afghan should have access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

The country is growing and changing. We need to plan for services to fit the growing population.

- We need to plan realistically. There is no simple solution.
- There is no possibility to buy us out of the problem.
- There are limitation both in capacities and financial resources.

We have to assess what works and expand viable and sustainable solutions.

- Find good projects and learn why there project work and are sustained.

What do people want?

- Safe services
- Reliable services

- Sustainable services.

What do people NOT want?

- Empty promises.

What will MRRD do?

- Review policies to make all resources used focus on sustainability
- Establish an effective monitoring system to assess service delivery and service gaps.
- MRRD has undertaken capacity building to train technical staff how to find viable ground water sources for effective water supply development. This work we hope to continue so that we do not waste time and money on drilling dry wells.
- Search for more effective areas

MRRD invites to better coordination and dialogue with all sector ministries and agencies for finding effective and sustainable solutions.

MRRD covers rural areas, but rural, small towns, peri-urban areas of urban areas have many challenges in common both for planning, service provision, community involvement, service levels, funding mechanisms, and water supply management issues to render services sustainable.

We realize that we have to find viable cost-sharing strategies so that facilities can be developed and maintained for many years. We need good solutions. Government does not have the funds to fund all operation and maintenances nor Does the government have institutions for that. We have to work closely with the users to develop viable cost sharing arrangements for more effective extension of service coverage and for establishment of sustainable operation and maintenance arrangements.

No scheme should be implemented before a clear plan and arrangement has been agreed on the operation and maintenance new schemes.

With these works, you are all welcome and invited to MRRD and help find sustainable systems for providing sustainable water supply and sanitation services for all Afghans in the foreseeable future.

Let this now be just a dream.

Welcome