

## Causes of Water Management Crisis in Afghanistan

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### ABSTRACT

Water is the common property of all human beings, which must be properly passed on to future generations. Water is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century and its mismanagement can threaten living Creatures' lives. Afghanistan is one of the countries in the world that has sufficient water resources but unfortunately its water is not properly managed due to the presence of water along its borders which comp cate water management but some Other factorssuch as lack of capital, lack of skilled manpower and lack of agreements with the neighboring countries on the water are the factors that are causing water management crisis in the country. The purpose of this article is to explore and investigate the causes the of water management crisis in the country and strive to find out the causes that play an important role in the emergenceof water management crisis in the country. This article is a descriptive study of the research approach and its methods analytical.

### KEYWORDS

Water management; cross-border water; water management crisis.

### INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan has a generally dry continental climate (Rahmani, et al, 2022). Water is the basic of the human life and without water a country cannot reach its economic, political, social potential and won't be able to achieve sustainable development. On this basis, a country's industrial growth, economic strength and prosperity are inextricably linked with water resources. Afghanistan is one of the countries in the world where about 80% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood, but they do not have enough water to irrigate their agricultural lands, despite flooding. There are rivers, which are constantly flowing and flowing along agricultural lands, which are not being utilized properly due to the crisis of water management. This is why farmers always consider the growth of crops and agricultural products to be dependent on rain water and often keep their eyes on the sky and wait for rain, in the absence of rain their lands remain dry and barren. Therefore, the water management crisis in the country is causing economic instability and chaos.

According to research, Afghanistan has 2 billion cubic meters of water, of which 2 billion cubic meters is surface water and 2 billion cubic meters is ground water. They play an important role in their economic growth and prosperity, but unfortunately due to the crisis of water management in the country they are not benefiting properly and most of them cross the borderes.

### Research Objectives

1. Research into the causes of water management crisis,
2. Demonstration of the value of water management in the country.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the causes of water management crisis in the country?
2. What is the value of water management in the country?

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

Every researcher is looking for the necessary materials, information and tools during the research. First of all, I have collected various sources which has information about on the causes of crisis in the water management of the country. Separated from the other. The topics that were most relevant to this research were covered in this article under certain headings. However, very little has been written about the causes of the country's water management crisis. This article is a descriptive study, the information of which has been collected and analyzed from various reliable sources such as books, magazines, journals and others.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### ***Causes of water management crisis in the country***

There are a number of factors contributing to the crisis of water management in Afghanistan, some of which are as follows:

#### ***Security Problems***

The deteriorating security situation in various parts of the country has severely affected the water sector and most donors are reluctant to invest in insecure areas. According to the Ministry of Water and Energy, insecurity in the country has led to problems with dam construction projects or the government has not been able to build dams. Experts in the ministry say that due to security concerns, no private sector investor is willing to invest in the sector without a guarantee. In addition, some neighboring countries are creating insecurity against the construction of dams in order to achieve their nefarious goals, and some mafia groups are also creating problems against the construction of water dams and pursuing bad policies, which is causing havoc in the country. Water management leads to crisis (1:1).

Afghanistan's security problems and the interference of neighboring countries in infrastructure are another problems that culminate into water management crisis in the country. Many experts believe that neighboring countries are taking advantage of the armed forces to obstruct and delay work on the water crossing the border in Afghanistan, of which there are many examples. Neighboring countries try to pus.

Afghanistan away from water control. Currently, Afghanistan's transboundary waters are politicized and not only can the Ministries of Water and Energy or Foreign Affairs be involved in the issue of transboundary waters, but also the National Security Council and the Office of the President. This is because it shifts the water across the border from technical issues to political issues. The politicization of water depends not only on Afghanistan, but also on the politicization of water all over the world, which in turn creates a water management crisis in the country (1:1-6).

#### ***Lack of information and data***

The water sector faces hydrological, meteorological and geological data, as well as economic and social data characteristics, water utilization indicators and generally accurate and reliable indicators that can handle conflicts. Help with the solution, not available. In addition, there is a lack of communication and transparency in the exchange of information

and data between ministries (1:1).

Thus, an important issue in river basin planning is the creation of an information bank or database for past information. The existence of such an information bank facilitates continuous monitoring and research of climate education. There is no database or database. Hydrological and meteorological networks should be given priority in this regard, as the information obtained through these networks is considered important for planning and development of aquatic resources, as well as water quality, gathering information on geological, geomorphological, social, economic and environmental issues so that it can be used for proper water management in the country (1:1).

In addition, the information on cross-border waters is very important during negotiations. Unfortunately, information on the country's surface and groundwater is scarce and limited, and the situation regarding cross-border waters is still tense. Even worse, because there is no oversight. Although 3 foot hydrological stations, 3 snow survey machines and 4 automatic meteorological stations have been installed by an American company in different parts of the country, they are not working properly and no accurate information is available. Suggests that this also poses a crisis for water management in the country (1:1).

### **Lack of Capital**

Very little investment has been made in Afghanistan's water management and resource development system, although significant steps have been taken in water management since the formation of the National Unity Government. However, very few steps have been taken to build water infrastructure, largely due to lack of capital and monetary constraints (1:1).

Afghanistan has been at war for four decades and has had little opportunity to think about water management and economic benefits. According to the Ministry of Water and Energy, Afghanistan does not have sufficient budget and capital for water management. Although the Afghan government is trying to build large dams, the construction process is slow due to budget and financial constraints. Afghanistan is already facing a shortage of capital and domestic capital and savings due to poor economic conditions. They are Not enough to build obese infrastructure. Therefore, lack of capital plays an important role in creating water crisis in the country (1:1).

### **Lack of Capacity**

Lack of capacity exists throughout the country and especially in the case of transboundary waters. Decades of war and violence in the country have left their mark on every aspect of life, especially the water sector. Water experts believe that the lack of capacity in the relevant institutions (water and energy, foreign affairs, finance, environmental protection and so on) has led to Afghanistan being unable to compete with Pakistan and others. Negotiate and negotiate water sharing with neighboring countries. This is why the issue is reflected in the works of King Watertown, who says that there is a lack of technical knowledge about the water sector in Central and South Asia, and that this gap is a major obstacle to water resources management. The greatest lack of technical knowledge in Asia is felt in Afghanistan (1:1).

In addition, there is a general lack of research on Afghanistan's water, with Afghans producing only four quotes from the 5th to the 6th year, the lowest number in the region, while in Iran and in Pakistan, the number goes up to 2 and 3, respectively, due to the fact that the country does not have sufficient capacity for water management, which in turn creates a water management crisis.

In general, Afghanistan's water sector does not have sufficient organizational capacity and this capacity needs to be activated and made effective. There is an inter-ministerial commission, which is a good framework for discussions and negotiations, but it has not held any meetings since its inception. In addition, the separate functioning of the relevant institutions can create problems and it is imperative that key ministries establish strong and close liaison in this regard. It is now important for the Afghan government to facilitate the active participation of all relevant bodies in transboundary waters, to understand their activities and to play their part in water management (1:1).

It can also be seen that the water sector ministries do not have sufficient and efficient manpower capable of planning, designing and implementing projects. Most of the experts who were trained during the Soviet invasion have left the country and those who have returned have been recruited by the private sector, international organizations and NGOs. Also the lack of knowledgeable people in the field of sociology and lack of analysis of such information with engineers also adversely affects the water sector and creates water management crisis (1:1).

### ***Neglect of Government Officials***

Although water management has a long history in Afghanistan, it has not received much attention from various authorities since time immemorial. However, it has received a lot of attention and priority from the National Unity Government over the last five years and has invested heavily in this area (<https://8am.af/ministry-of-energy-and-water-we-plan-to-manage-the-five-year-plan/>).

Fortunately, the National Unity Government has taken important steps in this direction since its inception and has looked at this issue as a fundamental asset and has included in its strategies the management of water resources and the ongoing process in the country. Water control is one of the priorities, because through proper water control and management the country can reach an agreement for lasting peace, stability as well as for the proper benefit of the countries of common interest. Water Management Reduces Crisis Level (<Aop.af/dari/4134/>).

### ***Lack of Agreement with Neighboring Countries***

As Afghanistan's water is divided into five basins, of which four (Helmand, Harirod Murghab, Kabul and Amu) basins cross the border and neighboring countries other than China. They depend on this water.

Afghanistan, after lengthy negotiations with Iran, established the Helmand River Water Sharing Agreement in the 5th year, which has two annexes. It is an official document and is still in force. Unfortunately, there is no water-sharing agreement, and there is no specific legal framework with the Central Asian states on the Amu Darya. Previous talks on the Amu Darya have only referred to it as the international border between Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union, not for the distribution and use of water. The average annual flow of the Amu Darya River is 1 million cubic meters, which varies in summer and winter. The river originates from Afghanistan at 7.5 percent and uses only 7 percent of its water, while Tajikistan uses 5 percent, Uzbekistan 3 percent, Kyrgyzstan 2 percent and Turkmenistan 3 percent. On this basis, the level of water production and use among the partner countries is very disproportionate, which in itself indicates a water management crisis in the country (1:1).

The Afghan government also has no agreement or memorandum with Pakistan on the Kabul River, although Pakistani officials have been keen to negotiate with the Afghan government until the 9th. The World Bank's efforts are also noteworthy, but so far both

sides have remained silent on the issue and no progress has been made. No cooperation mechanism has been defined between the two countries on the river. Water management, in turn, plays a key role in creating the crisis (<https://8am.af/ministry-of-energy-and-water-we-plan-to-manage-the-five-year-plan/>).

## CONCLUSION

As a result of the above discussion, we reached to the conclusion that Afghanistan has sufficient water resources, most of which are transboundary waters, which are used for the economic and social development of neighboring countries. The country's water management crisis has caused much of its water to flow into neighboring countries, complicating the country's water management. The results of the study show that various political and economic factors have led to inadequate access to these waters and the inflow of 4% of the running water into neighboring countries. Research findings also show that many factors such as lack of capital, lack of capacity and lack of agreements with neighboring countries have led to the emergence and acceleration of water management crisis in the country, the most important of which is There is a lack of agreement with neighboring countries, which exacerbates the water management crisis and as a result, the Afghan government is unable to manage its water properly, reach an agreement to end the country's water management crisis.

## Suggestions

The following suggestions are made on the above topic:

1. As water management in the country requires building water infrastructure, the Afghan government needs to make serious efforts to build water infrastructure.
2. Given the lack of investment in the country, it is necessary that the Afghan government should provide the necessary opportunities to attract foreign investment.
3. Given that very little research has been done on water resources in the country, it is necessary that the relevant agencies conduct specialized research on various water issues so that all aspects of it become clear.

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