

March 24, 2023

For the water deficient communities of Africa and Pacific areas, what is needed is getting *any* water – clean or otherwise - to an elevated level from water pans, wells, rivers or boreholes for gravitational distribution to purification mechanisms and onwards to consumption and/or irrigation.

Access to clean water is getting scarce due to well-known and collectively recognized climate change and economic factors, but unsuitable water such as sea, salty, black, floods or gray is most sporadically and interchangeably available for communities living in water scarce areas. These communities need clean water now, today as much as they will need it tomorrow. All the smart and grand intentions of governments and water investors will no doubt catch up with the remnants in this water crisis, but an immediate solution that does not postpone the access to water is what Barefoot Power is concerned with.

Ironically, the sun and its derived solar energy is an abundant resource in places with water scarcity. That energy will be harnessed to bring water to elevated levels and to purify water for safe and productive utilization.

Bringing access of 200 liters of clean water per day to a water-deficient household would solve the acute water, energy, food, local environmental and income problems in one magical stroke. 200 liters is sufficient for household consumption, kitchen garden irrigation and growing of trees around small land lots. Kitchen garden practices are advanced among localized and indigenous communities; they boost household nutrition and invariably provide some income through sales of excess or alternative crop. One household will farm lentils, another spinach and yet another millet – creating a producer cooperative with commercial value – all out of access to 200 liters of clean water per day. This action will hold the communities together as they await the ultimate water and food interventions - if they will ever come along.

Water scarce communities also need to be connected to the wider world where they not only get latest climate mitigation, adaptation information but also early warning messages for floods, droughts and excess or insufficient seasonal rainfall. The messages would be accessed through mobile phones – powered through solar energy.

The summary of Barefoot Power's Water Action Agenda is to work with partners and investors in bringing 2 million liters of clean water daily to 10,000 households by 2026; all fetched, sourced, purified and distributed using energy enabled mechanical means.

The households will also benefit from clean solar energy for lighting homes and powering of devices that connect them to the internet and the information world.

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