



**FAWAN
ACTION
NETWORK**

All about women in environment

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WATER

As well-known water is life. Statistics show that about 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water-covered. Water exists in many form such as, water vapor, in rivers and lakes, in icecaps and glaciers, in the ground as soil moisture and in aquifers, and also in living things water is present. Water is a necessity in catering for our fundamental needs and raising living standard and contribute in sustaining planets fragile ecosystem. Growing water demand and water scarcity is an issue and a prominent challenge to many livelihoods in several region globally. Global warming, water pollution, high population growth, poor management of water sources and climate change has contributed to global water scarcity. Water scarcity has major impacts on livelihoods in various regions, socio-economic activities, food security, education, health among others. The United Nation Sustainable Development Goal number 6(SDG-6), clean water and sanitation, targets to make water sustainable for use by the year 2030.

According to the United Nations, Kenya's people are among the most struggling population in the world. A country is defined as water-scarce if the per capita water availability is below 1700m^3 per year, Kenya has a low supply of renewable fresh water ($<1000\text{m}^3/\text{capita}/\text{year}$). Kenya's natural water resources does not serve various regions of the country and the country's basin do not reach equitable area of the country.

In most part of Kenya such as Laikipia, Kajiado and Kilifi, water scarcity is a major problem. Water scarcity is not only a global crisis but women crises too . Water shortage has

forced a large population of women and children to spend most of their time searching for water where they walk many miles up to 8 miles to fetch water from the remaining streams and ponds where even the available water is unsafe for human consumption. Women and children have been exposed to this backbreaking work that makes them vulnerable to serious dangers such risk of attack by predators and diseases. Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 8 out of 10 households with water off-premises, ([UN Water](#)). Water scarcity in great percentage affects women and girls, leading to decreased community economy, educational setbacks, increased domestic violence and conflicts.

Water scarcity due to change in rainfall pattern has contributed to great hunger since many farmers rely on rainfall in their farming activities. Majority of livestock have died due to hunger living many homesteads with nothing to rely on. Many families are in danger of dying as a result of drought, no food, no water.

In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, water scarcity is a priority issue to be addressed. There is dire need for developing countries to migrate from current water management practices to sustainable ways and environment protection. Adoption of new technology solutions and practices that improve efficiency of water use should be a primary goal for water management to reduce water loss and support sustainability of water resources. In order to protect women and girls, there is need to initiate projects that will help them access clean water and save their future.

Reference

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