

WATER FIGHTS POVERTY

Water together with land and labor is one of the most important resources of poor people. IWMI's research has shown a distinct link between poor access to water and poverty. When access to water improves, so does food security. Better access to water means better health, better income and a better quality of life.

How can the poor be helped?



By ensuring secure access to water



By empowering people to use water more productively



By improving how water resources are governed



By encouraging diversification in livelihoods

- More than 1.2 billion people, or one fifth of the world's population live in areas of physical water scarcity.
- Only 32 percent of the population in Sri Lanka is served by pipe-borne water and only one third of the piped water supply schemes can provide a 24-hour water supply.
- While Sri Lanka's population is expected to stabilize at 23 million by 2025, the urban population will increase from 30 to 60 percent causing tremendous pressures on water supply, sanitation and sewage disposal in urban areas.
- The capacity of people to manage their water resources can be enhanced through specific training.

