

# Water Sanitation

## Introduction: The AMICS

The Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (AMICS) is a nationally representative sample survey that presents data on the social, health, and educational status of women and children in Afghanistan. It was conducted in 2010-2011 by the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. The survey is based on the need to monitor progress towards goals and targets emanating from recent international agreements such as the Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Action of A World Fit For Children. It further helps track progress towards the Afghan Government's policy commitments to reduce poverty and support the wellbeing of women and children.



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## Safe Drinking Water

Safe drinking water is a basic necessity for good health. Access to safe drinking water and to adequate sanitation facilities are fundamental human rights. Unsafe drinking water can be a significant carrier of diseases such as trachoma, cholera, typhoid, and schistosomiasis. Drinking water can also be tainted with chemical, physical and radiological contaminants with harmful effects on human health. In addition to its association with disease, access to drinking water may be particularly important for women and children who often bear the primary responsibility for carrying water, especially in rural areas, often over long distances.

### The AMICS found that:

- 57% of the Afghan population is using an improved source of drinking water (82% in urban areas and 51% in rural areas)
- 20% use an appropriate treatment for drinking water: 13% boil the water, 5% add bleach or chlorine, 1% strain the water through a cloth, and 1% use solar disinfection
- For those using an improved drinking water source, less than 6% spend 30 minutes or longer getting to the drinking water source and for those using an unimproved source, 11% spend 30 minutes or longer fetching water.
- for 39% of households, an adult female is usually the person collecting the water, when the source of drinking water is not located on the premises. Adult men collect water in 34% of cases, while for the rest of the households, female (11%) or male (15%) children under the age of 15 collect water.

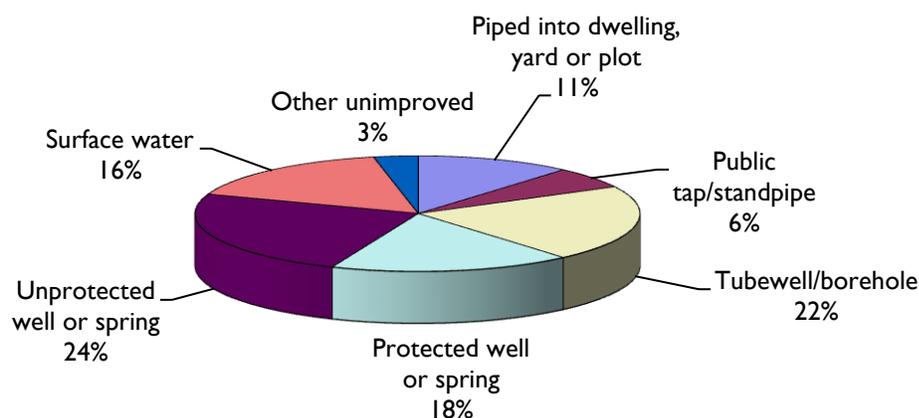


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**Percent distribution of household members by source of drinking water Afghanistan, 2010-2011**



## Access to Sanitation

### International Commitments

*The MDG goal for improving access to safe drinking water is to reduce by half, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation. The goal of a World Fit for Children with regards to safe drinking water calls for a reduction by at least one-third in the proportion of households without access to hygienic sanitation facilities and to affordable and safe drinking water.*

### The AMICS found that:

- 31% of the population live in households using improved sanitation facilities (60% in urban areas and 25% in rural areas)
- 29% of the household population is using an improved sanitation facility that is not shared
- 21% of households reported that they use both an improved source of drinking water and improved sanitation
- 60% of households use a specific place for hand washing (83% in urban areas and 55% in rural areas)
- Of those households with a designated place for hand washing, 71% had both water and soap present