



Water in Ethiopia

Water - a human right.

Commentary

Rural Ethiopia, green and lush after the rainy season. From the look of the rivers and the streams the availability of water doesn't appear to be a problem. But here unlikely in more developed countries people in rural areas or even in cities, can't take for granted.

Villager

(subtitled): Sometimes you come and there isn't any water, this happens maybe two or three times a month.

Commentary

Clean water is a sensual for life but one in 8th of the population doesn't have access to it. What does it mean to live with limited water resources? In much of rural Ethiopia, rivers and spring are the only source of water, even if they are polluted. Women and children routinely walk long distances to fetch water, often 6 or 7 times a day. They carry heavy loads to get enough water for drinking, cooking, washing and watering their animals. Some villages have hand pumps closer to home. This makes life easier when the water is usually cleaner. But the villages still have to maintain these pumps and pay for their upkeep. Most towns and cities have a clean piped water supply, poor neighbouring hoods people draw from public stand pipes for a fee. Better off households have water from taps in their compound or pipe directly to their home. But the supply can be erratic anything from a power cut to weather conditions can disrupt it, sometimes for days. Water crucial for agriculture, farmers, channels from the rivers to irrigate their crops. But in the dry seasons they are forced to compete with each other with what little water there is and the struggle there is to survive.

Farmer

(subtitled): We'd rather die fighting for our right of water than die of starvation.

Commentary

Access to water in Ethiopia can be a matter of life or death.