**Water Scarcity in Mexico City**

Mexico City gets its water from 2 main sources, underground and from 2 water supply systems. The water demand is biggest for domestic use in Mexico City and it takes 67 per cent of the whole water usage. Industries consume 17 percent and commercial and urban services 16 per cent of the total

**Causes**

Population growth means there is a higher demand for water. This higher demand means that more water is being withdrawn from the wells and this supply of water is running out. This is also causing the city to sink down to the lakebed at 3 inches per year. This sinking pressure is also damaging the distribution pipes, which lose 40% of the water they are carrying through leaks before they reach peoples’ homes.

Reduced rainfall in the area has also worsened the situation as the 2 water supply systems are at low capacity. Another cause for scarcity is the lack of wastewater recycling as only 15% of wastewater is treated each year.

**Current situation**

The average Mexico City resident still uses as much as 300 liters of water per day. Recently, because of the low levels of rainfall the external water supplies have had to be shut down for a couple of days, leaving several people without water. Poor people are the ones who suffer the most as the supply systems are mostly hooked up to the unplanned city outskirts where lots of poor people live. Many people live on just one hour of running water per week. Sudden cuts in the water supply are frequent. Water tariffs have been increased and water subsidies have been decreased. This has economic consequences on all residents, but again, specially on the poor. Also water is now being drained from other lakes near the city to satisfy the water demand.

Solutions - Green Plan – reducing residential water use, increasing the treatment of waste water, reducing leakage and making sure everybody pays for water. If all measures are implemented it would still not solve the problem.

Water sustainability program – increasing the size of supply systems and also bringing more water into the city from various sources such as Tula Valley.