



Challenges in Drinking Water Supply in the Earthquake Stricken Villages of East Azerbaijan in 2012

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Introduction

Disasters are destructive phenomena (Koenig et al., 2010). When they happen, people's routine life breaks down (Ciotton et al., 2006). These phenomena destroy buildings, infrastructure, lifelines, and facility services in vulnerable communities. The destructions cause massive human needs (Khankeh et al., 2006). On the other hand, they also destroy structures and organizations responsible for providing services (Smith et al., 2009).

There are so many evidences showing that drinking water supply systems (DWSS) are among the most vulnerable systems in disasters (Jokubicka et al., 2010) thus they are vulnerable systems. For example, in the 2004 tsunami in South East Asia, the World Health Organization estimated that in the affected areas, many of DWSS were wrecked and brought down (Ferretti et al., 2010).

Water is one the most essential needs of creatures after air. In addition to drinking, water is necessary in other areas as well. Not only will the lives of people and others be endangered, but even organizations such as hospitals and health centers that provide health services people need will not be able to provide needed services because of lack of water.

If water is contaminated, it can cause and transfer many dangerous diseases. Many outbreaks and epidemics have occurred following the consumption of contaminated water after a worldwide disaster. The most recent epidemic was a cholera epidemic in Haiti that has killed and affected thousands of people and made the situation catastrophic (Date et al., 2011). Thus given the aforementioned, DWSS in the disaster stricken areas, is one of the most urgent parts of each response program.

Following the August 11th earthquake of 2012 in the East Azerbaijan province (with magnitudes 4/6 and 3/6 on the Richter scale (IIEES, 2012), Many DWSS were destroyed so that they were not trusted for consumption. As a result, one of the main concerns of people and managers was