



The Global Water Crisis

Water poverty is a cross cutting issue that not only has an impact on health, but also has significant implications for education, gender equity, and social wellbeing.

- 663 million people lack access to an improved water source; approximately one in ten people. Source: WHO/UNICEF
- 1.8 billion people globally use a drinking-water source that is contaminated with feces. Source: WHO
- Approximately 842,000 people die each year from diarrhea as a result of unsafe drinking-water, sanitation and hand hygiene. Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program 2015
- Each year 361,000 deaths among children under the age of 5 could be avoided if drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene were addressed. This is approximately 1,000 per day. Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program 2015
- Up to 4 out of 10 schools and healthcare facilities lack basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in many parts of the developing world. Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program 2015
- The UN General Assembly recognizes safe drinking water as a human right. However, this basic right continues to be denied to so many of the poorest people across the world. Source: UNICEF
- Contaminated water can transmit many diseases including diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio. Contaminated drinking water is estimated to cause more than a half-million deaths due to diarrhea each year. Source: WHO



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- Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old, accounting for 9 percent of all deaths among children in this age group worldwide. Source: WHO/UNICEF
- Women and children bear the primary responsibility for collecting water. This time could be spent working, caring for family, or attending school. Source: WHO/UNICEF
- 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related illness. Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- An estimated 200 million hours are spent across the world each day collecting water. Source: WHO/UNICEF
- The number of people without access to soap and water for hand washing is in the hundreds of millions. : WHOGLASS Report 2014
- By 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas. Source: WHO
- Due to the many benefits of access to clean water, interventions in this area provide a \$3 to \$34 return on every dollar invested: WHO