

Water

- 884 million people lack access to safe water supplies; about one in eight people. (5)

**A bathtub holds 151 L of water.
Someone in a slum may only get
30 L for all their daily needs.**



- 3.575 million people die each year from water-related disease. (11)
- The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns. (1)
- People living in the slums often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people living in the same city. (1)
- An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than a typical person in a developing country slum uses in a whole day. (1)

Sanitation

- Only 62% of the world's population has access to improved sanitation (5)



**More people in
the world have
cell phones than
access to a
toilet.**

- Lack of sanitation is the world's biggest cause of infection. (9)
- 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation, including 1.2 billion people who have no facilities at all. (5)

Children

- Diarrhea remains in the second leading cause of death among children under five globally. Nearly one in five child deaths – about 1.5 million each year – is due to diarrhea. It kills more young children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined. (13)

- Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a water-related disease. (2)

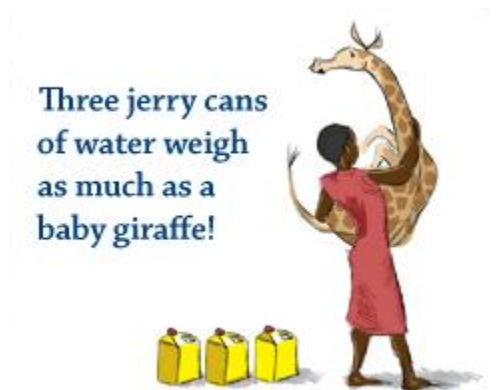
Thousands of sixth graders will drop out this year because of water insecurity



- Children in poor environments often carry 1,000 parasitic worms in their bodies at any time. (8)
- In the developing world, 24,000 children under the age of five die every day from preventable causes like diarrhea contracted from unclean water. (13)
- 1.4 million children die as a result of diarrhea each year. (11)

Women

- In just one day, more than 200 million hours of women's time is consumed for the most basic of human needs — collecting water for domestic use.
- This lost productivity is greater than the combined number of hours worked in a week by employees at Wal*Mart, United Parcel Service, McDonald's, IBM, Target, and Kroger, according to Gary White, co-founder of Water.org.



- Millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources. (1)
- A study by the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) of community water and sanitation projects in 88 communities found that projects designed and run with the full participation of women are more sustainable and effective than those that do not. This supports an earlier World Bank study that found that women's participation was strongly associated with water and sanitation project effectiveness. (7)

Disease

- At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. (1)

**Guinea Worm
Disease is caused
by drinking dirty
water: the worm
can grow to 3 feet
long!**



- 88% of cases of diarrhea worldwide are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene. (9)
- 90% of all deaths caused by diarrheal diseases are children under 5 years of age, mostly in developing countries. (8)

Economics

- Investment in safe drinking water and sanitation contributes to economic growth. For each \$1 invested, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates returns of \$3 – \$34, depending on the region and technology. (14)
- Almost two in every three people who need safe drinking water survive on less than \$2 a day and one in three on less than \$1 a day.
- Investment in drinking-water and sanitation would result in 272 million more school attendance days a year. The value of deaths averted, based on discounted future earnings, would amount to US\$ 3.6 billion a year.(15)

Environment

- Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use. (12)
- More than 80% of sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated, polluting rivers, lakes and coastal areas. (16)

Water in the News

[Northern Kenya pupils miss school over drought](#) 3 Jan

[Bangalore thirsting for more](#) 1 Jan
[First things first in Haiti: clean water and sanitation](#) 28 Dec
[Water woes in Pakistan](#) 26 Dec
[Water famine looms over Bangalore](#) 25 Dec
[People face severe water crisis in Ranchi](#) 25 Dec
[Kampala water crisis intensifies](#) 22 Dec
[Bangladesh: Photos of Dhaka's water crisis](#) 17 Dec
[Jimmy Carter's fight to eradicate the Guinea Worm](#) 17 Dec
[Haiti cholera death toll passes 2,000 mark](#) 5 Dec

Resource Links

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References

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