

FACTS AND FIGURES ON WATER

ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER:

- 785 million people do not have access to clean drinking water, about 1 in 10 people. (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>)
- Unless we change our ways, two-thirds of the world's population will face water scarcity by 2025
- 2,500,000 people, or a third of the world's population, do not yet have access to sanitation. (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2014 update)
- Achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation would save 2.5 million lives every year. (WHO, Global Burden of Disease 2004 Update, Geneva: WHO, 2008)
- More than 400 million Africans now live in water-scarce countries
- Compared to today, five times as much land is likely to be under "extreme drought" by 2050
- The percentage of the Earth's land area stricken by serious drought more than doubled between the 1970s and 2005
- More than 130 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean lack access to safe drinking water
- Between 15 and 20 percent of the water used worldwide is not for domestic consumption, but rather for export
- More than one-third of Africa's population lacks access to safe drinking water
- Half the world's schools do not have access to clean water, nor adequate sanitation.

WATER REQUIREMENT:

- According to international Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) guidelines, everyone in the world should have access to at least 20 litres of drinking water per day.
- To go to school in a developing country, a child needs at least 4 litres of water at school.
- Women in Africa have to travel an average of 6 kilometres a day to fetch water, on average 3 hours a day are spent fetching water.
- People can go without food for 30 to 40 days, but no more than three days without water.

WATER QUALITY:

- Around 500,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation - that's over 1,400 children a day. (Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed - Progress Report 2014, UNICEF, September 2014)
- Diarrhoea is the second biggest killer of children under five years old in Sub-Saharan Africa. (Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group (CHERG) 2012)
- Every year, around 60 million children are born into homes without access to sanitation. (http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Progress_for_Children_No_5_-_English.pdf page 3)
- As little as one dollar can provide clean water for a child in the developing world for an entire year.
- For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of at least \$4 is returned in increased productivity. (Hutton, Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage, WHO, Geneva, 2012: page 4)
- Half the hospital beds in developing countries are filled with people suffering from diseases caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene. (UNDP Human Development Report, 2006 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR06-complete.pdf> page 45)
- Hygiene promotion is the most cost-effective health intervention according to the World Bank. (Saving lives, WaterAid, 2012)
- Hygienic practices such as washing hands with soap can reduce the risk of diarrhoea by 50% (Curtis and Cairncross, 2003; Luby, et al. 2005)
- A child dies of waterborne diseases about every 15 seconds (that's about 12 children just since you started reading this article). By this time tomorrow, another 2,500 will be dead.
- 80 percent of all sickness and disease worldwide is related to contaminated water, according to the World Health Organization
- Diarrhoea killed more children in the last decade than all armed conflicts since the World War II
- Dirty water kills more children than war, malaria, HIV/AIDS and traffic accidents combined

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- 75 percent of the people in Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from chronic dehydration because of poor water quality
- 90 percent of wastewater produced in underdeveloped countries is discharged untreated into local waters
- 80 percent of China's major rivers are so degraded that they no longer support aquatic life
- 90 percent of all groundwater systems under major cities in China are contaminated
- 75 percent of India's rivers and lakes are so polluted that they should not be used for drinking or bathing
- 60 percent of rural Russians drink water from contaminated wells
- 20 percent of all surface water in Europe is seriously threatened
- 443 million school days are lost each year due to water related illness.

WATER USE IN THE WESTERN WORLD:

- In the Netherlands, we use an average of 119 litres per day.
- It takes 114 litres of water to fill an average bath.
- When we brush our teeth, or wash at the sink, we use about 4 litres of water.
- We use about 8 litres of drinking water per flush of a toilet, water-saving toilets reduce this to 5 litres.
- A water-saving shower consumes 6.9 litres per minute, a regular shower 8.7 and a comfort shower 14.4 litres per minute.
- If we do the laundry by hand, we use 40 litres of water for that. If we do the washing with the washing machine, it will cost about 56 litres of water.
- With a hand wash including pre-rinse, 9.1 litres of water are used. With a modern dishwasher about 15.8 litres.
- Water consumption in a US household is eight times that of an Indian household.
- If you take a shower for 5 minutes, you use at least 95 litres of water.
- A dripping faucet can waste 75 litres of water a day.
- It takes about 300 litres of water to make the paper for just one Sunday newspaper.
- The average dishwasher uses over 100 litres per cycle.
- More than 5,500 litres of water are required to produce a keg of beer.
- Before that steak is on your plate, more than 1,550 litres of water have already been used.

MACRO:

- In the Netherlands we use an average of 50,000 litres of water per person per year in a household.
- It takes fifteen years for an average Dutch household to consume the amount of water required to fill an Olympic swimming pool (2,500,000 litres).
- A total of 1.1 trillion (or 1,100,000,000,000) litres per year is consumed in the Netherlands (2007). Households account for 0.8 trillion litres of this, the rest is used by industry, agriculture, and so on. Annually, approximately 90 trillion litres of water enter the Netherlands via rivers and precipitation.
- Agriculture is responsible for about 70% of the world's water usage. Industry uses a further 22%.
- The world consists of 70% water. Only 1% of it is suitable for human use, so it is suitable for consumption.

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