



## Facts About the Clean Water Crisis

### A Challenge To Our Children

Every day, 2,000 children aged 5 and under die from a water-related disease – the equivalent of 9 busloads of kindergartners.<sup>1</sup>

In the past 10 years, diarrhea from waterborne illness has killed more children than armed conflict since WWII.<sup>2</sup>

The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than guns have claimed in war.<sup>3</sup>

In villages where access to clean water is provided, the infant mortality rate can drop by 50%.<sup>4</sup>

Children in poor environments often carry 1,000 parasitic worms in their bodies at any time.<sup>5</sup>

Globally, 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases.<sup>6</sup>

### A Lack of Equity

Women are responsible for 72% of the water collected in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>7</sup>

Globally, at least 2 billion people use a drinking-water source contaminated with feces.<sup>8</sup>

Worldwide, 783 million people do not have access to clean and safe water.<sup>9</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest number of water-stressed countries of any region<sup>10</sup>

By 2025, half of the world's population will be living in under water stressed conditions.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Children dying daily because of unsafe water supplies and poor sanitation and hygiene; UNICEF; [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_68359.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_68359.html)

<sup>2</sup> Facts About The Global Drinking Water Crisis: <http://blueplanetnetwork.org/water/facts>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Report 2006, Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty, and the Global Water Crisis, UNDP, 2006

<sup>4</sup> <http://wateringmalawi.org/global-water-poverty-facts/>

<sup>5</sup> Water.org, The Global Water Crisis, Kansas City: Water.org, 2009

<sup>6</sup> Water.org, Water Facts: Children

<sup>7</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation "2015 Report and MDG Assessment"

<sup>8</sup> WHO/2017 Drinking Water Fact Sheet. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs391/en/>

<sup>9</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation. "Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water 2010."

<sup>10</sup> World Water Development Report 4. World Water Assessment Programme

<sup>11</sup> WHO/2017 Drinking Water Fact Sheet. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs391/en/>



**WORLD SERVE**

## **Facts About the Clean Water Crisis**

At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from a water-related disease.<sup>12</sup>

It takes 12 gallons of water per day to sustain a person; the average American uses about 158 gallons.<sup>13</sup>

A 5-minute shower uses more water than a person in a developing country uses in a day.<sup>14</sup>

### **Economic Threats**

In just one day, more than 200 million hours of women's time is consumed collecting water for domestic use.<sup>15</sup>

Clean drinking water would create 320 million productive days due to improved health.<sup>16</sup>

In Africa, every \$1 spent on water and sanitation generates a return of \$9 in saved time.<sup>17</sup>

If everyone in the United States flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save enough water every single day to create a lake that is a mile long, a mile wide and four feet deep.<sup>18</sup>

Time spent gathering water around the world translates to \$24 billion in lost economic benefits each year.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Facts About The Global Drinking Water Crisis: <http://blueplanetnetwork.org/water/facts>

<sup>13</sup> U.S. News and World Report

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2006). Human Development Report 2006, Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis

<sup>15</sup> <http://water.org/learn-about-the-water-crisis/facts/>

<sup>16</sup> Soap, Toilets and Taps. A foundation for Healthy Children: How UNICEF Supports water, sanitation and hygiene.

<sup>17</sup> Facts About The Global Drinking Water Crisis: <http://blueplanetnetwork.org/water/facts>

<sup>18</sup> 55 Facts, Figures and Follies of Water Conservation. [http://asapbackflowtesting.com/?page\\_id=119](http://asapbackflowtesting.com/?page_id=119)

<sup>19</sup> Source: WHO (2012), "Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage." Geneva, Switzerland: WHO Press, World Health Organization