

WATER FACTS

General

- In 2010 the United Nations published a resolution stating every person has the right to water that is safe, sufficient, acceptable, accessible, and affordable.
 - In eastern and southern Africa, 243 million people lack basic water access (from a clean source and under 30 minutes roundtrip).
 - The largest populations without basic access are in Ethiopia (61 million), Tanzania (27 million), and Uganda (24 million).
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 88 percent of those without basic water access live in rural areas.

Health

- 159 million people worldwide collect water primarily from surface sources, and 58 percent of these people (92 million) live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Waterborne diseases like cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio spread rapidly through contaminated water sources.
 - Diarrhea causes 502,000 deaths per year.
 - Children are especially susceptible to waterborne diseases – diarrhea is the second most common cause of death for children under the age of five in Africa.

Education & Women

- Access to improved water sources impacts school attendance.
- Girls in sub-Saharan Africa are more likely to be denied education than boys: for every 100 boys out of primary school there are 132 girls.
- When girls begin their education they tend to continue, but the reality is that the biggest gender gap occurs at the primary school level (many girls don't get the opportunity).
- Estimates of the burden of water collection that falls on women range between 60 percent and 90 percent.
 - Unimproved water sources are more likely to be off-premises, creating the double burden of long travel time and contaminated water.
- Girls' school attendance has been proven to increase significantly for each hour reduction in water collection.

Economics

- Women in Africa spend 40 billion hours each year collecting water, which takes away from their ability to be productive in other ways.
- Poor water and sanitation result in economic losses estimated at \$260 billion each year (1.5% of GDP of many developing countries).
- Global economic return on water spending is \$2 for every dollar invested; a figure that is actually much higher when social and environmental benefits are taken into account.

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Data Sources

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