



WORLD WATER FACTS

* Of all water on earth, 97.5% is salt water, and of the remaining 2.5% fresh water, some 70% is frozen in the polar icecaps. The other 30% is mostly present as soil moisture or lies in underground aquifers.

*To ensure our basic needs, we all need 20 to 50 litres of water free from harmful contaminants every day.

*1.1 billion people live without clean drinking water.

*2.6 billion people lack adequate sanitation.

*In areas poorly served with water and sanitation, the child mortality rate is multiplied by 10 or 20 compared to areas with adequate water and sanitation services. 3900 children die every day from water borne diseases.

*A child born in the developed world consumes 30 to 50 times as much water as one in the developing world.

*Globally, diarrhoea is the leading cause of illness and death. 1.8 million people die every year from diarrhoeal diseases.

*In developing countries, 70% of industrial wastes are dumped untreated into waters where they pollute the usable water supply. Some 300-500 million tons of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge, and other wastes accumulate each year from industry.

*To produce a kilogram of meat takes anywhere between 5,000 to 20,000 litres of water per kilogram. The total amount of water resources used to produce a crop is referred to as “virtual water.” Producing 1 kg of meat requires as much water as an average domestic household does over 10 months (50l/person/day).

*50% of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900.

*Approximately 70% of all available water is used for irrigation.

*It is estimated that OECD nations need to invest at least USD 200 billion per year to replace aging water infrastructure to guarantee supply, reduce leakage rates and protect water quality

*By 2075, the number of people in regions with chronic water shortage are estimated to be between 3 and 7 billion.

Source: World Health Organization(WHO), United Nations Education, Science, Culture Organization (UNESCO), Water Partners International(WPI), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).