



UNA-NCA Spotlight on SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Overview

Access to clean water is a human right, and demand for water is increasing as the global population continues to grow. Despite progress in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation worldwide, billions of people live without stable access to either basic service. One in three people do not have access to safe drinking water, and countries face amplified challenges linked to water scarcity, poor sanitation, water pollution, and climate change. COVID-19 demonstrates the critical importance of sanitation, hygiene, and access to clean water for the prevention and containment of disease. Over 2.2 billion people around the world still lack safely managed drinking water, including 785 million without basic drinking water. Nearly 1,000 children die every day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases.

Access to water is an essential service, underpinning healthcare, poverty reduction efforts, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems, and education. Achieving SDG 6 not only affords a healthy and equitable livelihood to billions of people around the world- it mitigates the risk of water-scarcity based conflict. A 40% shortfall in freshwater resources by 2030 coupled with a rising world population threatens risk of a global water crisis.

BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE PROGRESS,
BILLIONS STILL LACK
WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES



2.2 BILLION PEOPLE
LACK SAFELY MANAGED
DRINKING WATER
(2017)



4.2 BILLION PEOPLE
LACK SAFELY MANAGED
SANITATION
(2017)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

3 BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

LACK BASIC HANDWASHING
FACILITIES AT HOME



THE MOST EFFECTIVE
METHOD FOR
COVID 19 PREVENTION



Lack of Access

“Clean water is a basic human need, and one that should be easily accessible to all. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. However, due to poor infrastructure, investment and planning, every year millions of people- most of them children- die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.”

In 2017, 71% of the global population had access to safely managed drinking water and 45% had a safely managed sanitation system. Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise, and over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge.

Globally, one in three people live without sanitation, causing unnecessary disease and death. An estimated 4.2 billion people do not have access to safely managed sanitation services, and nearly 2.4 billion people lack access to toilets or latrines.

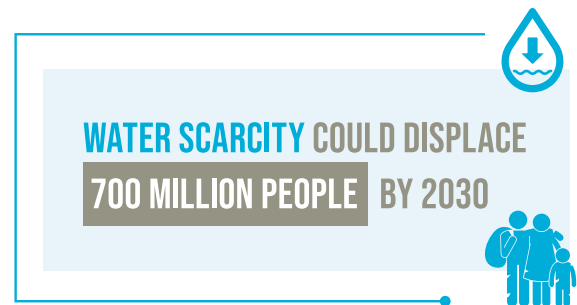


READY TO TAKE ACTION?

We're taking the fight to Congress. Email takeaction@unanca.org for more info on how you can join us on Capitol Hill and beyond.

Fresh Water Sources

By managing water sustainably, it is possible to better manage the production of food and contribute to economic growth. In 2018, 60% of countries reported very lower tier levels of implementation of integrated water resources management and were unlikely to meet the implementation target by 2030. Approximately 70% of all water abstracted from rivers, lakes, and aquifers is used for irrigation, and more than 80% of wastewater resulting from human activities is discharged into rivers or seas without pollutant removal. The adverse effects of climate change can decrease the extent of freshwater bodies, thus worsening ecosystems, agriculture and livelihoods.



Sustainable Management

Sustainable management of water resources and access to safe water and sanitation are essential for unlocking economic growth and productivity. Water shortages undercut food security and the incomes of rural farmers; improving water management makes national economies and the agriculture and food sectors more resilient to rainfall variability and thus able to fulfill the needs of a growing population. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems and their biodiversity can ensure water purification and water quality standards.



SOME COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE
A FUNDING GAP OF 61% FOR ACHIEVING
WATER AND SANITATION TARGETS