

Key Water + Sanitation Facts | for use in 2018-2019

Water

- 844 million people – 1 in 9 – lack access to water.
- Almost 6x the population of the United States lives without a household water connection.
- The water crisis is the #4 global risk in terms of impact to society, announced by the World Economic Forum in January 2019.
- 159 million people depend on surface water, like a river, to meet their basic needs.

Sanitation

- 2.3 billion people – 1 in 3 – lack access to a toilet.
- Globally, 60% of people do not have access to safely-managed sanitation.
- 892 million people – 12% of the global population – defecate in the open.
- More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.

Health

- Nearly 1 million people die each year from water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases.
- Every 2 minutes a child dies from a water-related disease.
- 160 million children suffer from stunting and chronic malnutrition linked to water and sanitation.
- Diarrhea is one of the top 3 leading causes of child death, a majority of which are water-related.

Women

- Women and children bear the primary responsibility for water collection.
- Women and girls spend 200 million hours every day collecting water. This is time not spent working, caring for family members, or attending school.
- Women and girls living without a toilet spend 266 million hours every day finding a place to go.
- Access to improved sanitation leads to a reduction in assault and violence on women and girls.

Education

- Reductions in time spent collecting water increases school attendance, especially for girls.
- Globally, 1/3 of all schools lack access to basic water and sanitation.
- Having a sanitation solution at home means children are more likely to have higher cognitive test scores.
- For every year a girl stays in school, her income can increase by 15-25%.

Economic

- \$260 billion is lost globally each year due to lack of basic water and sanitation.
- Every \$1 invested in water and sanitation provides a \$4 economic return.
- Universal access to basic water and sanitation would result in \$18.5 billion in economic benefits each year from avoided deaths alone.

Finance

- It will take three times more than what is currently being invested to achieve universal access to safely managed water and sanitation.
- Globally, to extend basic water and sanitation services will cost \$28.4 billion per year.
- \$114 billion per year is needed to achieve safely managed water and sanitation, meeting the SDG 6 targets. This represents a gap of \$89.6 billion.
- Access to credit plays a significant role in triggering household sanitation investments.
- People living in poverty are reliable paying customers when given the opportunity to access household water connections.

Key reports

Key reports referenced are:

- The progress report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) is produced every two years. ([available here](#))
- Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) is produced every two years by the World Health Organization (WHO). ([available here](#))
- UN-Water produced the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation. This represents a joint position from the UN family on the global status on SDG 6 targets. ([available here](#))
- UNESCO World Water Development Report is an annual and thematic report that focuses on different strategic water issues each year. ([available here](#))
- The Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) produced the Water Knowledge Highlights which is a selection of reports, case studies and toolkits produced during 2016-2018. ([available here](#))
- OECD Key trends and figures report of financing water and sanitation services in developing countries - official finance and private finance. ([available here](#))
- Water.org-IRC position paper, "Financing WASH: how to increase funds for the sector while reducing inequities: Position paper for the Sanitation and Water for All Finance Ministers Meeting, April 20, 2017" ([available here](#))