

Reimagining
WASH

WATER SECURITY FOR ALL



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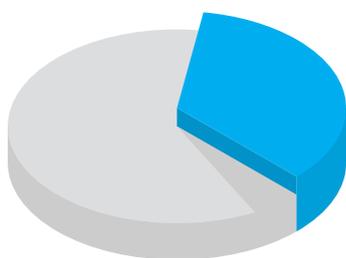
The world is in a water crisis, and children's lives and futures are at risk.



For children, water is life: without it they cannot survive. Safe drinking water is essential for their health and survival, and unsafe water can make them sick or even kill them.

But a lack of safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) affects more than just children's health. It affects their physical development, exacerbating malnutrition and stunting. It affects their education, disrupting learning and sometimes forcing them to skip school to walk long distances to collect water. Water scarcity reduces livelihood opportunities for their families and communities, leading to migration, conflict and even child labour.





1.42 billion people

450 million **children**



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Today, 1.42 billion people – including 450 million children – live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability.¹

Less than 3 per cent of the world’s water resources is freshwater, and it is growing increasingly scarce.¹ Decades of misuse, poor management, over-extraction of groundwater and contamination of freshwater supplies have exacerbated water stress. At the same time, demand for water is rising due to rapid population growth, urbanization and increasing water needs from a range of sectors, notably agriculture, industry and energy.

Climate change is also compounding water scarcity through changing precipitation patterns and increased water demand. Many changes in climate are felt through water – droughts, floods and rising sea levels – and extreme weather events can damage vital water and sanitation infrastructure and services in homes, communities, schools, health-care facilities and food supplies. Rising sea levels

can lead to saltwater intrusion, contaminating drinking water supplies. Rapid melting of glaciers changes the river flow patterns in the downstream areas, contributing to risks of flooding, damage to infrastructure (including dam bursts), as well as low flows in rivers, reducing the amount of water available.

Water scarcity and climate change are also drivers of conflict and migration, as communities and entire populations compete for shrinking water resources. Families may be forced to leave their homes in search of reliable water supplies and livelihood opportunities, often moving to urban areas and towns, putting even more pressure on already strained services.

The resulting impact on children’s health, development, and safety threatens the significant progress made in child survival and sustainable development over the past several decades. It is putting children’s lives at risk today and threatens future generations.

¹Water vulnerability for this analysis relates to physical water scarcity risks (Baseline water stress; inter and seasonal variability; groundwater decline and droughts) and the water service level

KEY CONCEPTS

Water scarcity²

Water scarcity exists where the demand for water exceeds supply and where available water resources are approaching or have exceeded sustainable limits. Water scarcity can either be physical or economic.

Physical water scarcity

Occurs where water resources are over-exploited for different uses and no longer meet the needs of the population.

Economic water scarcity

Where poor governance, limited capacity, infrastructure and limited investments are among the drivers of economic water scarcity. This type of water scarcity may occur in countries with adequate water resources.

Water stressⁱⁱ

Water stress is an outcome of water scarcity and refers to scarcity in terms of quality and accessibility. Water stress may manifest in conflict over water resources, over-extraction, or poor health and disease.

Extreme water scarcityⁱⁱⁱ

Occurs where annual water supply availability is less than 500 cubic metres per person per year. However, this metric has been developed as a global average, applied in varying contexts and includes different uses of water, not only domestic.

Water security

The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against waterborne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.^{iv,3} Water insecurity occurs when any or all of these needs cannot be met.

Extreme water vulnerability

Extreme Water Vulnerability is the combination of the **highest** levels of physical water scarcity risks and **lowest** levels of drinking water service that affects a given population (surface water, unimproved or limited water service).^{4,5}

² Water scarcity is a relative, dynamic concept, and the local context will determine how and why supply is not meeting demand. Several different definitions for water scarcity exist, which include different methods of measuring levels of water scarcity. More recent methods are focused on determining levels of water stress based on temporal (spatial or geographic determinations of water availability within a country or region) and seasonal fluctuations in water resources at different times of the year. Primary indicators of water scarcity have typically focused on average exposure of water users in each country to baseline water stress, defined as the ratio of total withdrawals to total available supply.

³ This is a working definition based on UN-Water's [Water Security and the Global Water Agenda](#) report. UNICEF will contribute to four dimensions of water security solutions as outlined at the end of this brief.

⁴ A limited water service is an improved source for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing (JMP, [Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2017](#))

⁵ UNICEF's conceptualization based on analysis of the interplay between access and physical water risks.



Urban peacebuilding through WASH interventions in Tripoli, Lebanon

In 2014, Tripoli's WASH infrastructure and services were essentially destroyed as a result of conflict and prolonged neglect. The government water service provider tried to connect the water supply from the newly rehabilitated water networks in the predominantly Sunni neighbourhood of Quobbe to deliver water to Jabal Mohsen, predominantly Alawite. But Quobbe residents – motivated by simmering tensions and conflict – filled in the trenches dug by the

Alawite and Sunni Muslim communities. They also organized a large community theatrical performance to communicate key WASH messages and address everyday experiences of Tripoli residents.

UNICEF brought together community leaders and government service providers to discuss water and sanitation infrastructure and improving services for all. Tripoli youth from the Alawite and Sunni Muslim communities

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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