

WORLD WATER DAY 2023

ACCELERATING CHANGE

KEYWORDS

Safe drinking water

Pakistan water crisis

Water crisis

Water sanitation

Flint water crisis

South Africa water crisis

Right to water

Water conservation

AN OVERVIEW

- Water is one of the most vital necessities for survival. ⁽¹⁾
- The World Health Organization (WHO) states water as a “primary tool for enhancing public health” as availability of water prevents many diseases and significantly improves hygiene. ⁽¹⁾
- Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. ⁽²⁾
- Water resources in the world are shrinking quickly due to an unprecedented increase in population. ⁽³⁾

KEY FACTS

In 2020,



771 million people lacked basic drinking water services worldwide. ⁽⁴⁾



2.3 billion people lacked basic hygiene services, including soap and water at home. ⁽⁵⁾






1 in 4 people lacked safely managed drinking water. ⁽⁶⁾



3.6 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services. ⁽⁷⁾

WATER ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD

LOCATION/ COUNTRY	FLINT, MICHIGAN ⁽⁸⁾	CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA ⁽⁹⁾	PAKISTAN ⁽¹⁾
1 Water Issues	 <p>Unsafe drinking water; water contamination</p>	 <p>Water shortage</p>	 <p>Poor sanitation; water quality</p>
2 Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2014 – City of Flint switches from its traditional Lake Huron water source to Flint River water. • May 2014 – Flint residents continue to complain about health issues resulting from river water use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa is one of the world's driest countries. • 2018 - Western Cape region in South Africa experienced a significant decline in dam water levels and drought. • The critical stage was termed "Day Zero". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked in the top 10 of countries with highest populations living without access to safe water. • Only 20% of the population having access to quality water.
3 Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and behavioral problems. • Lost economic productivity. • Increased fetal death rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main reservoirs around Cape Town were running dry. • Agricultural exports and expected revenues were projected to decline by 20%. • The central government declared the drought a national crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate sanitation results in diarrhea upon consumption. • Water quality is poor and unfit for drinking.
4 Preventive measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2014 – General Motors (GM) Corporation announces it will no longer use Flint River water because the water is damaging auto parts. • December 2014 – GM stops using Flint River water; returns to Lake Huron water. • GM Foundation donated to purchase water filters for Flint residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal use of water was limited to 50 L per person per day. • Engage in community action and organize events that promote eco-friendly solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government can take legal action to the companies and individuals which actively contribute to the waste being dumped. • Conduct water sanitation and hygiene campaign at the level of public and private schools and colleges. • Use of mass media for raising awareness regarding water sanitation.

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