

The Water Gap

The State of the World's Water 2018



Introduction



2018 may well be remembered as the year one of the world's great tourist destinations ran out of water.

In a startling reminder that our world's most precious resource is becoming increasingly scarce for too much of the population, Cape Town hit the headlines for declaring a date for Day Zero: the day on which city taps run dry.

But long queues and limited water supplies are already happening in many other less headline-worthy locales, reminding us of the need for better and fairer management of Earth's water supply.

Already more than 60% of humanity lives in areas of water stress, where the supply of water cannot or will not continue to meet demand. If water is not managed more prudently – from source, to tap, and back to source – the crises observed today will become the catastrophes of tomorrow.¹

This year's *The State of the World's Water* reveals that the number of people defined as without clean water close to home has gone up, with new entries in our ranking.

Some **844 million people** are now struggling to access life's most essential requirement – almost 200 million more than previously counted.

Statisticians now record both what source people obtain their water from and how far they travel for it. Anything longer than a 30-minute round trip no longer counts as access.²

As a result, countries including Uganda and Niger are now counted among those with the lowest rates of access; many countries also face intense competition with agriculture and industry for water, and ever-growing challenges from extreme weather, political instability, conflict and displacement.

New data that links water access to household wealth also shows that, even in countries making progress, there are still vast discrepancies between richest and poorest.



Girls and young women walk home from an unsafe shallow well near Nyarugusu, Geita district, Tanzania.

As this year’s report demonstrates, wherever you are in the world, it’s the poorest and least powerful who are most often without clean water. That means those who are older, ill, disabled, who live in a remote or rural location or have been displaced, or who are of a caste, ethnicity or religion likely to be discriminated against. Inequalities in wealth and power, attitudes in society and culture, and limited resources mean they are also hardest to reach. Gender intensifies this inequality; it is mainly up to women and girls to find and fetch water, or to find ways to adapt when it is scarce. Consider this: a woman collecting the UN-recommended amount of 50 litres per person for her family of four from a water source 30 minutes away would spend **two and a half months a year** on this task.

Importantly, 2018 presents a chance for change. Nearly three years ago, world leaders passed the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, a promise to end extreme poverty and create a fairer, more sustainable world. This summer, Global Goal 6 – to deliver access to water and sanitation to all – will be reviewed at a high-level political forum in New York, to measure progress and press ahead for more.

Around 289,000 children under five die each year of diarrhoeal illness directly linked to dirty water, inadequate toilets and poor hygiene. This shouldn’t be normal. It is a crisis we cannot ignore.

What does access to water mean?

For the most fortunate, it means turning on a household tap at any time for a glass of clean, safe water. An estimated 89% of the world has clean water in or near home – an increase from just 81% in 2000. That leaves 844 million at the bottom of the ladder – with long journeys for clean water, or dependent upon contaminated wells, rivers or ponds.

The Unicef-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme ladder of access

Safely managed water: treated to make it safe to drink, tested, piped into homes and available when needed. About 5.2 billion people in the world, or 71% of the world’s population, benefit from this level of service.³

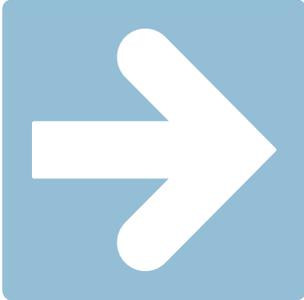
Basic water service: piped water, protected deep wells and boreholes, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water, all within a 30-minute round-trip journey. Another 1.3 billion people are dependent upon this level of access.

Limited service: a lengthy journey to find a basic water service – more than a 30-minute round-trip, including time for queuing.

Unimproved service: drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.

Surface water: drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream or canal – almost certain to cause illness.

Six reasons people are deprived of access to water



1. Lack of financing and political priority

At the highest level, access to water is about national, regional and local governments choosing to make water a priority, and dedicating funding and expertise accordingly. When governments don't prioritise basic human needs for water, uneven distribution and shortages are the result.

2. Lack of institutions capable of delivering and maintaining

In the UK, the US and many other developed countries, we depend upon regulated utilities that deliver and maintain our water service, which are expected to invest when needed and will pay a legal price if they don't do their jobs well. The ultimate goal in the developing world is the same: well-trained, regulated utilities that ensure a sustainable supply of water for all.

3. Lack of effective taxation and tariffs

The human right to safe drinking water means it must be accessible and affordable for everyone. But countries that don't collect effectively from those who can afford to pay aren't likely to be able to reach those who struggle. 'Pro-poor policies' include water charges proportionate to income or subsidising the cost of initial connection.

4. Location and land tenure

If you're far from a major town or city, or if you're in a major centre but in an unplanned or illegal settlement, then you're less likely to be able to access a reliable, piped water supply, and more likely to be at the mercy of the elements or powerful people around you. Unregulated commercial extractions of ground water that reduce the amount available for household use, or pollution of water sources, affects those who are disenfranchised the most.

5. Discrimination

Caste, class, health, political affiliation, homelessness or displacement may all keep you from accessing what water is available – either because you can't afford it, or because others keep you away out of superstition, or misguided fears of contamination.

6. Disaster and displacement

Where water access is fragile, a hurricane, drought or conflict is likely to wipe it out completely, forcing the population to make do with rationed supplies or move to another location. Ensuring water services have proper infrastructure and maintenance can help them withstand sudden shocks, and helps restore them more quickly.

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark hair, wearing a vibrant red sari and a green headscarf. She has a small gold nose ring and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Defining inequality

Inequality is rooted in wealth and power, and is defined by who you are, where you live and your social and economic situation. Your age, education and ethnicity also come into play, and inequality may change over time, as you grow older, your health changes, or from conflict or a shock event.

The ability to access clean water is affected by all of these too, and may also change throughout a lifetime.

Textile worker Aleya suffers from health problems from contaminated drinking water in Banglabazar, Gazipur, Bangladesh. An H&M Foundation funded project will work to improve water access as well as sanitation and hygiene in the area.

What happens when access to water is a struggle?

Your health suffers

Diarrhoea, skin conditions, infections, river blindness and trachoma can all be linked to dirty water, alongside poor sanitation and poor hygiene. One in four newborn deaths are due to infections and sepsis⁴ that might have been prevented had the babies been delivered in places with safe water, decent sanitation and good hygiene. Small children with regular bouts of diarrhoea or intestinal worms are more likely to experience malnutrition and stunting. In areas where groundwater has become saline, hypertension and eclampsia are more common.

You are less safe and secure

Walking for water may involve a lengthy and remote route. This means risking encountering snakes and wild animals, as well as harassment and attack. It's also hard work; a full 20 litre jerrycan weighs the same as an aeroplane luggage allowance (20 kg). Carrying this on your back or head on narrow, slippery paths means great risk of injury and strain, several times a day.

You lose out on education

Ever tried to study when you're thirsty? It's impossible to concentrate. Imagine yourself as a six-year-old in a hot, crowded classroom without anything to drink for hours. Children who must fetch water for their families are often late for lessons and may be more likely to drop out early.

You are less able to earn an income

Supporting yourself is hard to work if you're often ill. And it's hard if you've got to spend hours each day collecting water. Having a clean, safe source of water nearby saves time, improves health, and opens up small business opportunities.

Your social standing and dignity suffers

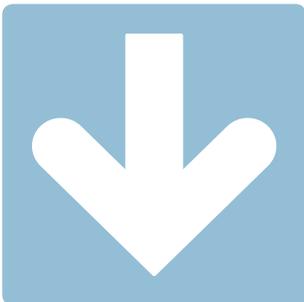
It can be humiliating and isolating to be unable to wash yourself and your clothes because there isn't enough water. This is particularly an issue for older, sick or disabled people who find it harder to get to a tap and carry water back. Women and girls who are menstruating will struggle to maintain routines and hygiene, with increased risk of infection.

It reinforces gender inequality and exploitation

This goes far deeper than the chore of fetching water. Where communities live with extreme water scarcity and climate stress, progress in gender equality rolls back as families revert to traditional roles to survive. In hard-hit countries like Mozambique, there's evidence that domestic abuse and child marriage are on the rise, as struggling families marry off their daughters in the hope they will be provided for.⁵

The top 10 countries with lowest access to water – by %⁶

*denotes 2015 ranking



Rank	Country	At least basic % access
1	Eritrea	19
2	Papua New Guinea*	37
3	Uganda	38
4	Ethiopia*	39
5	Dem Rep of the Congo*	39
6	Somalia	40
7	Angola*	41
8	Chad*	43
9	Niger	46
10	Mozambique*	47

Top of the list this year is Eritrea, with just 19% of the population in this coastal nation – an isolated dictatorship which has also become a route for refugees – having access to clean water close to home. Papua New Guinea moves from lowest to second-lowest in the world, still facing rising seas, extreme weather and other impacts of climate change.

In third place this year is Uganda, a new addition to the top 10 indicating that many of its people have long walks for water. Just 38% of people have access to clean water close to home. While Uganda has made progress in the years since the end of its civil war, its economy is slowing, increasingly unreliable rains are affecting agriculture, and conflict in neighbouring South Sudan has

contributed to Uganda’s status as host to the largest number of refugees in Africa.⁷

Coming in ninth is Niger. This landlocked nation of the Sahel desert was ranked second least-developed nation in the world in 2016 by the UN, with 44% of its people living in poverty. It has one of the highest rates of population growth in the world, at 3.9% a year.⁸ Subject to drought as well as flooding, Niger’s food supply is insecure, affecting more than 1.5 million people in 2017; an estimated 42% of children under five are malnourished.⁹ The country is also host to about 300,000 refugees from conflict in neighbouring countries of Libya, Nigeria and Mali.¹⁰

Uganda

38% of people have access to clean water close to home
35% of the poorest people have clean water
72% of the richest people have clean water
UN Human Development ranking: 163



WaterAid/ James Kiyimba

Aguti Anna Grace, 41, was tortured and lost an arm – as well as three of her children – in 2005 to rebels from the Lord’s Resistance Army. Today, with her nearest water point 3km away, she has a WaterAid-provided rainwater harvesting tank which gives her surviving children more time to go to school . ‘People like me, living with a disability, will always find it challenging to go there and carry water home... The tank can serve us with enough water so long as the rainy seasons continue,’ she said. “The water from the tank is good. We use it for all our household chores.”

Niger

Hamadou Seydou, 45, was born in the village of Norandé on the Niger river, as were his wife and three children. “My main activity is farming, especially rice growing. Over the last few years, heavy rains have washed away some of our land. This has strongly affected our ability to grow crops. Before WaterAid intervened here, the people suffered from diseases such as stomach pain, skin infections and diarrhoea. Sometimes people have died from these. Now, almost everyone has a latrine for their needs and we use the new borehole to get all our drinking water. We still use the river water for our other needs, such as laundry, washing utensils, agriculture and brick-making.”

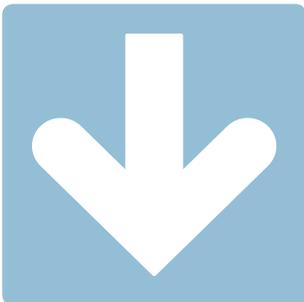


WaterAid/ Aisha Augie-Kuta

46% of people have access to clean water close to home
41% of the poorest people have clean water
72% of richest people have clean water
UN Human Development ranking: 187

The top 10 countries with lowest access to clean water close to home – by population¹¹

*denotes 2015 ranking



Rank	Country	Number of people without
1	India*	163,105,959
2	Ethiopia*	60,504,853
3	Nigeria*	59,498,110
4	China*	57,545,973
5	DRC*	46,879,641
6	Indonesia*	26,982,307
7	Tanzania	26,657,528
8	Uganda	23,840,407
9	Pakistan*	21,640,293
10	Kenya*	19,130,780

Top of this list once again is India. It is also one of the world’s most-improved nations for reaching the most people with clean water, but faces challenges with falling groundwater levels, drought, demand from agriculture and industry, pollution and poor water resource management – challenges that will intensify as climate change contributes to more extreme weather shocks. In November, it restructured its rural water programme with a goal to reach 90% of rural households with piped water by 2022.¹²

Tanzania is a new addition to the list this year, now that distance is taken into account; 13% of its people have more than a 30-minute walk for clean water, and 37% are relying on unsafe sources.¹³ Its population has more than doubled in 25 years and

is rapidly urbanising; combined with recurring drought and heavy use of water for agriculture, Tanzania is in a state of water stress.¹⁴ The Tanzanian government is aiming for universal access to safe water by 2025; however, to achieve this, good management of water and prioritising its use will be essential.

Pakistan, too, is facing severe challenges; industrialisation and the demands of agriculture, depleted and increasingly saline groundwater, rapid urbanisation and drought have all taken their toll. Here, too, the disparity between rich and poor becomes clear: while nearly all of the country’s wealthiest have access to clean water, this applies to only 79% of its poorest.

Pakistan

88.5% of people have access to clean water close to home
79.2% of the poorest people have clean water
98% of the richest people have clean water
UN Development Index ranking: 147



WaterAid/ Sibtain Haider

Banno, a mother of five and main carer for her bedridden husband, lives in Bhanani Bheel village in Tharparkar, Pakistan, where WaterAid and local partners have installed a solar-powered reverse osmosis plant. “People in this area have spent most of their lives digging and searching for sweet water wells. We had no idea such plentiful water would be available in front of us,” she said. “Before the reverse-osmosis plant, I had to travel miles on my donkey to fetch water from wells to quench the thirst of my family... It would take two to four hours to get water.”

Tanzania

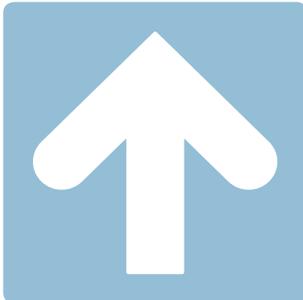
Asia Lucas, 62, paid to have three shallow wells dug near Nyarugusu town, Tanzania, and now charges 200 shillings per bucket to a local neighbourhood of artisanal gold miners and their families; the water runs low in the dry season and people complain of skin rashes and diarrhoea. The community is soon to be connected to a WaterAid water and sanitation project. “The people depend on this water for everything, for drinking, for bathing. Every day they depend on this. A deep borehole would help us here.”



WaterAid/ Sam Vox

50% of people have access to clean water close to home
22% of the poorest people have clean water
85% of the richest people have clean water
UN Human Development ranking: 151

The top 10 countries most improved in access to water – by % points



Rank	Country	access 2000	access 2015	% point change
1	Afghanistan	27.1%	62.9%	35.8
2	Laos	45.8%	80.5%	34.7
3	Yemen	42.7%	70.4%	27.7
4	Mozambique	22.2%	47.3%	25.1
4	Mali	49.2%	74.3%	25.1
5	Paraguay	75%	98.9%	23.9
6	Cambodia	52.4%	75%	22.6
7	Ethiopia	16.7%	39.1%	22.4
8	Nigeria	46.1%	67.3%	21.2
9	Sierra Leone	38.7%	58.1%	19.4
10	Somalia	20.7%	40%	19.3

Appearing in this category for the first time is Afghanistan. Though unstable, it has also been the focus of a huge reconstruction effort, which, while troubled, has expanded access to clean water. Yemen made progress before the outbreak of civil war in 2015, though ongoing conflict and cholera outbreaks now signal infrastructure breakdown.

Both Laos (no. 2) and Cambodia (no. 6) represent progress in southeast Asia, where economic growth and development have brought millions out of poverty. However, the water-wealth gap remains; while 95% of Cambodia’s wealthy have access to clean water, only 61% of its poorest people can say the same.

Tied for fourth are Mali and Mozambique, though both also

face serious challenges, including Mozambique’s capital of Maputo currently experiencing severe water shortages and preparing for rationing.

In Mali, peace is fragile; drought and a fast-growing population have also contributed to food insecurity,¹⁵ with an estimated 4.1 million people in this year’s dry season expected to experience food shortages.¹⁶

In eighth place is Nigeria – an ambitious middle-income country with sub-Saharan Africa’s largest income, it has nonetheless struggled to deliver clean water and sanitation to its people. Though access to water has improved substantially in the last 15 years, data reveals that this progress is mainly among the wealthy; only 30% of the country’s poorest people have access to clean water close to home.

Mali

74% of people have access to clean water close to home
45% of the poorest people have clean water
93% of the richest people have clean water
UN Human Development ranking: 175



WaterAid/ Basile Ouedraogo

Kadidiatou Diarra, 62, lives in Kati-Malibougou outside of Bamako, and walks to a public fountain across a railway track for water. “One day I sent my grandchildren to the fountain to fetch water with a little cart. And on that day, on their way back with the water, there was some trouble with the little cart, and it got stuck in the middle of the rail track while the train was approaching. It was a panic. The children cried, but fortunately some adults ran to save them before the train hit them. This was lucky – otherwise the train would have crushed them. I can’t forget that day. I was really afraid.”

Nigeria

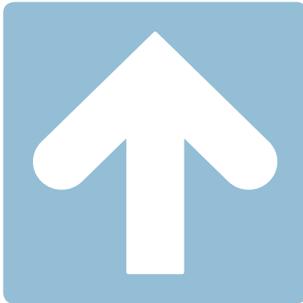
Patience James and Rahab Peter, both 20, have lived in an IDP camp in Abuja for three years after fleeing violence in Borno state. “Now we get our water from a new borehole. But before, we had to buy pure water, or if we wanted to wash our clothes, we had to go to the river. The water there is not clean. The toilet is so bad that we go into the bush to relieve ourselves there, and when the rain falls, it washes everything into the river.”



WaterAid/ Simi Vijay

67% of people have access to clean water close to home
30% of the poorest people have clean water
89% of the richest people have clean water
UN Human Development ranking – 152

The top 10 countries most improved in providing water access – by number, since 2000¹⁷



Rank	Country	Number of people reached
1	China	334,263,785
2	India	300,788,777
3	Indonesia	72,843,098
4	Nigeria	66,085,442
5	Pakistan	44,328,750
6	Brazil	37,923,597
7	Mexico	33,052,687
8	Bangladesh	32,439,869
9	Ethiopia	27,766,769
10	Philippines	24,046,112

The largest countries in the world have the most striking results, and here we see that the world’s two most populous countries, China and India, have also reached the greatest number of people with water since 2000. India in particular has made water access a major focus, with the government reporting further progress since the above figures were collected in the last round of monitoring in 2015 by Unicef and the World Health Organization.

Yet all of the countries on this list are also facing great challenges, and many have not been able to extend their progress to their poorest and most vulnerable people. Pakistan, for instance, has reached 44 million people since 2000 with water – yet we see that while almost all its wealthy have access to clean water close to home, one in five people living in poverty do not.

In Bangladesh, the recorded gap between rich and poor when it comes to access to clean water is much narrower. Yet, it too is facing serious challenges. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable nations in the world to the impact of climate change. Rising sea levels are contributing to increasingly saline groundwater and a new water crisis in the south. Naturally occurring arsenic also pollutes an estimated 12.5% of household water sources in Bangladesh, further reducing the access.¹⁸

Over the past year, Bangladesh has seen the arrival of an estimated 700,000 Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in neighbouring Myanmar, creating a sprawling refugee camp in a matter of weeks, and putting additional pressure on the country’s water resources.

India



WaterAid/ Ishita Rampal

88% of people have access to clean water close to home

UN Human Development ranking: 131

Hrudamajhi, 45, lives in Kirejholla village in western Odisha. The village’s previous open, dug wells were contaminated with bacteria and had high levels of naturally-occurring fluoride, which at high concentrations causes skeletal damage. WaterAid and local partners installed a small piped-water system from an improved well. Hrudamajhi said, “Now the swelling of my feet and elbows has decreased. Earlier I would not be able to sit on the ground or do household work for long hours, but now the situation has improved. I am relieved that my children will surely be spared such health problems.”

Bangladesh



WaterAid/ H&M Foundation/ GMB Akash/ Pamos

97.3% of people have access to clean water close to home¹⁹

93.2% of the poorest people have clean water

98.9% of the richest people have clean water

UN Development Index ranking: 139

Nurun Nahar, 40, is a garment worker living in Banglabazar, on the outskirts of Dhaka. “The face of the outside area has changed, but not our area. There is no drainage line in this area, human waste flows through the river which is a water source for many people. Most of our tube wells give water for only six months, and during the summer we simply go from place to place in search of water. Sometimes we have to buy drinking water.” An H&M Foundation funded project will work to improve water access as well as sanitation and hygiene in the area.

Conclusion

This is a crisis the world can fix. We **know** how to deliver clean water. The tools to prevent disease, support development and ensure healthier communities are within our grasp.

There is no more pressing concern than the future of our planet’s water and how it can be equitably shared to ensure everyone’s basic needs are met.

This is a crisis, and WaterAid is calling on governments everywhere to deliver on the human right to accessible, affordable drinking water.

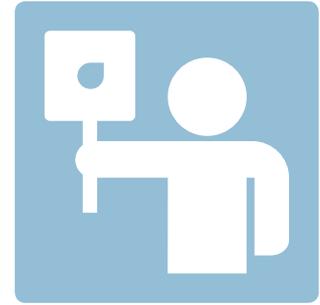
This summer’s review of Global Goal 6 will show that progress is not happening fast enough, and the task of reaching everyone with clean water is growing more difficult. Business as usual cannot create the change that is needed.



A young Rohingya girl takes a water break on her way uphill to her family’s temporary shelter at the Kutupalong camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh.

WaterAid/ Al Shahriar Rupam

WaterAid is calling for...



Recognition that the UN Global Goals are everyone's responsibility to deliver, to ensure no one is left behind. Everyone is accountable if they fail.

Urgent action on the ground, at regional, national and global scale. Access to safe drinking water is a UN-recognised human right; politicians need to prioritise it and fund it, civil society must help all people speak out for their rights, and those working in water, sanitation and hygiene must support service providers and government to respond.

The mobilisation of resources from taxes, tariffs and transfers. An increasing volume of aid needs to go towards supporting institutions and systems that will deliver water for the poorest and most marginalised people. These must be accountable and well-governed, so that money is well-spent, and promoting pro-poor policies that ensure access to water for everyone.

The inclusion of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene as central to health, education, nutrition and gender equality. Without water, none of the other UN Global Goals can be met.

Responsible environmental management, including regulating the use of water in agriculture and industry, to protect and preserve enough clean water for communities' basic needs.



Kashi Ram, 50, carrying water from a nearby well to his house in Sheetal Pani village, Baiga Chak, Dindori, Madhya Pradesh, India.



Appendix

Global access to an at least basic water supply, WHO/Unicef Joint Monitoring Programme

Afghanistan	62.9
Albania	91.3
Algeria	93.4
Andorra	100
Angola	41
Anguilla	98.2
Antigua and Barbuda	96.7
Argentina	99.6
Armenia	98.9
Aruba	97.8
Australia	100
Austria	100
Azerbaijan	84.3
Bahamas	97.7
Bahrain	100
Bangladesh	97.3
Barbados	98.1
Belarus	98
Belgium	100
Belize	97.1
Benin	67
Bermuda	99.9
Bhutan	97.5
Bolivia	92.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	97.6
Botswana	79.1
Brazil	97.4
British Virgin Islands	99.8
Brunei Darussalam	99.5
Bulgaria	99.2
Burkina Faso	53.8
Burundi	55.9
Cambodia	74.9
Cameroon	65.2
Canada	98.9
Cape Verde	86.4
Central African Republic	54.1
Chad	42.5
Chile	100

Country	2015
China	95.8
Colombia	96.5
Comoros	83.7
Congo	68.3
Cook Islands	99.8
Costa Rica	99.6
Cote d'Ivoire	73
Croatia	99.5
Cuba	95.1
Cyprus	100
Czech Republic	99.8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	39.3
Denmark	100
Djibouti	76.9
Dominica	96.5
Dominican Republic	94.4
Ecuador	92.6
Egypt	98.3
El Salvador	93
Equatorial Guinea	49.5
Eritrea	19.2
Estonia	99.6
Ethiopia	39.1
Fiji	93.7
Finland	100
France	100
French Polynesia	100
Gabon	87.5
Gambia	80
Georgia	93.2
Germany	100
Ghana	77.7
Gibraltar	99.6
Greece	100
Grenada	95.6
Guadeloupe	99.6
Guam	99.6
Guatemala	93.5

Country	2015
Guinea-Bissau	69.1
Guinea-Conakry	67.3
Guyana	95
Haiti	64.1
Honduras	92.1
Hungary	99.9
Iceland	100
India	87.5
Indonesia	89.5
Iran	94.8
Iraq	86
Ireland	98.9
Israel	100
Italy	100
Jamaica	92.9
Japan	98.9
Jordan	98.5
Kazakhstan	91.1
Kenya	58.4
Kiribati	64.3
Kuwait	100
Kyrgyzstan	87.2
Laos	80.4
Latvia	98.5
Lebanon	92
Lesotho	71.5
Liberia	69.9
Libya	96.7
Lithuania	97.3
Luxembourg	99.9
Macedonia	96.7
Madagascar	50.6
Malawi	67.1
Malaysia	96.4
Maldives	97.8
Mali	74.2
Malta	100
Marshall Islands	78.1
Mauritania	69.6
Mauritius	99.8
Mexico	98.3
Micronesia	88.3
Moldova	86.6
Monaco	100
Mongolia	83.2
Montenegro	97.6

Country	2015
Morocco	82.9
Mozambique	47.2
Myanmar	67.5
Namibia	78.7
Nauru	100
Nepal	87.7
Netherlands	100
New Zealand	100
Nicaragua	82.2
Niger	45.8
Nigeria	67.3
Niue	98.1
North Korea	99.6
Northern Mariana Islands	99.2
Norway	100
Occupied Palestinian Territory	87.6
Oman	90.9
Pakistan	88.5
Palau	99.5
Panama	95
Papua New Guinea	36.5
Paraguay	98.8
Peru	89.8
Philippines	90.5
Poland	97.8
Portugal	99.9
Puerto Rico	97.1
Puntland	NA
Qatar	100
Romania	100
Russia	96.3
Rwanda	56.7
Saint Kitts and Nevis	NA
Saint Lucia	98.1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	95.1
Samoa	95.5
San Marino	100
Sao Tome and Principe	79.6
Saudi Arabia	99.9
Senegal	75.1
Serbia	91.1
Seychelles	96.2
Sierra Leone	58
Singapore	100
Slovakia	97.9
Slovenia	99.5

Country	2015
Solomon Islands	64
Somalia	40
Somaliland	NA
South Africa	84.6
South Korea	99.5
South Sudan	50.4
Spain	99.9
Sri Lanka	92.3
Sudan	58.9
Suriname	94.6
Swaziland	67.6
Sweden	100
Switzerland	100
Syria	96.7
Tajikistan	74.1
Tanzania	50.1
Thailand	98.2
Timor-Leste	70.2
Togo	62.8
Tokelau	99.5
Tonga	99.9
Trinidad and Tobago	96.9

Country	2015
Tunisia	94.2
Turkey	98.8
Turkmenistan	94.4
Turks and Caicos Islands	94.3
Tuvalu	99.2
Uganda	38.9
Ukraine	97.7
United Arab Emirates	99.6
United Kingdom	100
United States of America	99.1
Uruguay	99.2
Uzbekistan	NA
Vanuatu	90.5
Venezuela	97.4
Viet Nam	91.1
Wallis and Futuna Islands	99.5
Western Sahara	NA
Yemen	70.3
Zambia	61.2
Zimbabwe	66.5

Women wash clothes at a stream in the village of Noor Muhammad Thaheem, Thatta, Sindh, Pakistan.



WaterAid/ Sibtain Haider

Endnotes

- 1 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28096/9781464811791.pdf> p6
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- 11 WHO/Unicef Joint Monitoring Programme (2017) *Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2017 update and SDG baselines*. Available at: <https://washdata.org>
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- 15 www.worldbank.org/en/country/mali/overview
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- 19 This number does not take into account naturally occurring arsenic which current measures do not account for – this reduces the number of households' access to 85%.

One in nine people around the world do not have access to clean water close to home, and 60% of the world's population lives in areas of water stress, where the water supply cannot or will not continue to meet demand. With a review of UN Global Goal 6, to deliver safe water and sanitation to all by 2030, scheduled for summer 2018, it's clear nations are off-track on this commitment.

The Water Gap – The State of the World's Water 2018 reveals the countries where people are struggling most for clean water, highlights those countries that have made the most progress, and calls upon the world's governments to address the injustice of the water crisis.

Written by Carolynne Wheeler, with support from Fiona Callister, Louisa Gosling, Priya Nath, Amy Keegan, Jonathan Farr, Virginia Newton-Lewis, Stuart Kempster, Richard Steele, Laura Summerton, Sam James, and WaterAid teams in Bangladesh, India, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Pakistan.

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Cover photo:

Malika pours water in front of her home in Tillaberi region, Niger.

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