

Water, water everywhere...?



70%

The Earth is approximately 70% water, so it should be easily accessible for everyone, right?

It's more complicated than that

3%

Just 3% of the water on Earth is fresh.

-1%

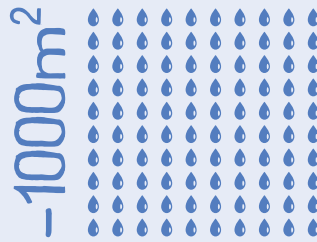
And less than 1% of that is available for human consumption – the rest is either frozen or too deep below the Earth's surface to be reached.

1 in 4



1 in 4 of the world's 500 largest cities is in a situation of 'water stress' (when the demand for water exceeds the available amount, or poor quality restricts its use).

The World Bank defines 'water scarcity' as when the local population of a specified area have access to less than 1,000 cubic metres of fresh water per person per year.



2018

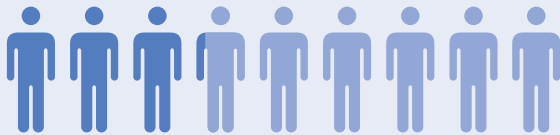


Over 1 billion people lack access to water



2.7 billion find it scarce for at least one month of the year.

2030

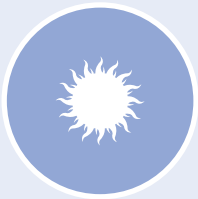


It's anticipated that global demand for fresh water will exceed supply by 40% by 2030.



Cape Town could be the first major city in the modern era to run out of water.

Why is this happening?



Climate change

As temperatures rise, water evaporates from the reservoirs and soil

Some areas are also experiencing reduced levels of rainfall and even droughts



Human actions

Groundwater is over pumped at a faster rate than nature can replenish

Increased agriculture can also cause stress on an area's water supply

Overconsumption by the local population can also be a cause

Pollution can mean that the water supply that is available becomes unsuitable for human consumption



Population growth

In some cities, populations are expanding at a much faster rate than the current infrastructure can sustain

More people generally means more pollution, potentially poisoning the existing water supply

