

# Water Facts

## Key Global Water Facts and Figures

- More than 1 in 6 people remain without access to safe drinking water.
- Over a third of the world's population has no access to sanitation facilities.
- A child dies every 8 seconds from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.
- In developing countries, about 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions.
- Diarrhoea and malaria, two water-related diseases, rank high in the cause of death among children under 5 years old, accounting for 17% and 8% respectively of all deaths.
- At any one time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-borne diseases.
- One litre of water weighs 1 kg. In developing countries, it is common for water collectors, usually women and girls, to have to walk several kilometres every day to fetch water. Once filled, pots and jerry cans weigh as much as 20 kg.
- A person living in Sub-Saharan Africa uses 10-20 litres a day; on average, a Canadian uses 326 litres a day.
- Only 1% of the total water resources on earth are available for human use. While 70% of the world's surface is covered by water, 97.5% of that is salt water. Of the remaining 2.5% that is freshwater, almost 68.7% is frozen in ice caps and glaciers.
- Up to 30% of fresh water supplies are lost due to leakage in developed countries, and in some major cities, losses can run as high as 40% to 70%.
- About 90% of sewage and 70% of industrial wastes in developing countries are discharged into water courses without treatment, often polluting the usable water supply.