



WORLD WATER DAY "Be the Change"

22 March 2023

#WorldWaterDay #WaterAction #Goal6 #GWI



WHAT IS WORLD WATER DAY?



World Water Day is a United Nations Day of Observation celebrated annually on 22 March. The day highlights the **importance of access to fresh water and aims to** accelerate change to address the water and sanitation crisis and promote sustainable management of freshwater resources. Fresh water scarcity is both natural and man-made. There is enough fresh water for the planet but its distribution is uneven and too much water is wasted, polluted and managed sustainably. Access to clean water restores health for families and reduces the amount of time that children, who often help with chores at home, spend walking and waiting to collect water each day. Clean water gives kids a chance to attend school and build a better future.

DID YOU KNOW?



Globally, 29% schools lack basic drinking water services, impacting 546 million schoolchildren; 28% of schools lack basic sanitation services, impacting 539 million schoolchildren.



In 2019, 785 million people in more than 43 countries do not even have a basic drinking water service and 144 million of them have to use surface water.



With the existing climate change scenario, by 2030, water scarcity in some arid and semi-arid places will displace between 24 million and 700 million people.

Sources : UNICEF, UNESCO, UN WATER

THE IMPACT ON ACCESS TO EDUCATION

INABILITY TO ATTEND SCHOOL

50% of undernutrition among children is due to the consumption of non-potable water (WHO). Similarly, children who are sick and weakened by lack of access to water, hygiene and sanitation cannot go to school to learn a trade and build their future.



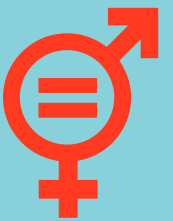
INCREASE OF CHILD MORTALITY



Every year, more than 300,000 children under the age of five (more than 800 a day), die from diarrhea diseases caused by poor sanitation, poor hygiene or contaminated water they drink. (UNICEF)

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WOMEN

Women are the most impacted by this lack of access to safe drinking water. They are traditionally responsible for collecting water and must travel several kilometers a day for long hours. Studies in 45 developing countries show that in 76% of households, water collection is primarily the responsibility of women and children (UN Women). In Africa, for example, women often walk six hours a day for 60 liters of water.



BARRIER TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The 200 million hours women and girls spend each day collecting water is a huge waste of time. Having to go out and get water significantly reduces the time they can spend with their families and use it to get a job, to get involved in the community, to look after their children, even to have fun. For both boys and girls, collecting water can interfere with their studies, sometimes totally preventing them from going to school. (UNICEF)



2023 WORLD WATER DAY

TIME FOR ACTION!

Water affects everyone and we all need to act. That means us, our families, schools and in our communities. We can make a difference by changing the way we utilize, consume and manage water in our lives.



Invest in local NGOs, associations and all key actors that improve access to clean water. In 2021, for example UNICEF and its partners by engaging locally helped 70 million people access clean water.



Rainwater is an incredible resource but still largely underutilized. **Collect rainwater** to replace other water sources.



In countries where access to water is scarce, **advocate for more equitable sharing of water chores** to allow women and children to have more time for education and family.



Education! Water education and awareness helps individuals understand where they fit within the larger world of water.

Links with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 SDGs, which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership.

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QUALITY
EDUCATION



SDG 4 : Quality education. Giving all children access to drinking water and sanitation will positively impact their learning, access to education and professional achievements.

6

CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



SDG 6 : Clean water and sanitation. The implementation of SDG 6 is on the wrong track. The latest data shows that governments need to work on average four times faster to achieve SDG 6 by 2030.

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



SDG 5 : Gender equality. Enabling women and girls to access safe drinking water will empower them to invest fully in their lives and claim their rightful place in society.

8

DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 : Decent work and economic growth. In countries where women and girls have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, they are in better health, which makes attending school and work more possible.

GWJ Resolutions

Every three years, the GWI General Assembly adopts new policy resolutions to guide the advocacy work of our National Federations and Associations (NFA) towards the education rights of women and girls. GWI has long been aware that access to clean water and sanitation are key factors towards empowering women, and one of the first factors in improving the quality of education for every child and adolescent. Here are our main resolutions adopted on the subject.

2022 - No. 7: Climate Change & Gender

2019 - No. 3: SRH Education as a Human Right for All

2004 - No. 10: Protection of Water

2001 - No. 3: Education for Establishing a Society of Gender Equality

1998 - No. 1: Right to Education

1992 - No. 4: Girl's Self-Esteem

1995 - No. 1: Adolescents

No. 5: Health Education



GWJ thanks intern, Paloma MARTIAL, for her contributions to this infographic.

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