



# WATER

Water connects every aspect of life. Access to safe water and sanitation can quickly turn problems into potential - empowering people with time for school and work, and contributing to improved health for women, children, and families around the world.



**771 MILLION PEOPLE LACK ACCESS TO SAFE WATER.**



**1.7 BILLION PEOPLE LACK ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION.**



**WOMEN AND GIRLS SPEND 266 MILLION HOURS EVERY DAY FINDING AND COLLECTING WATER.**



**EVERY 2 MINUTES A CHILD DIES FROM A WATER-RELATED DISEASE.**

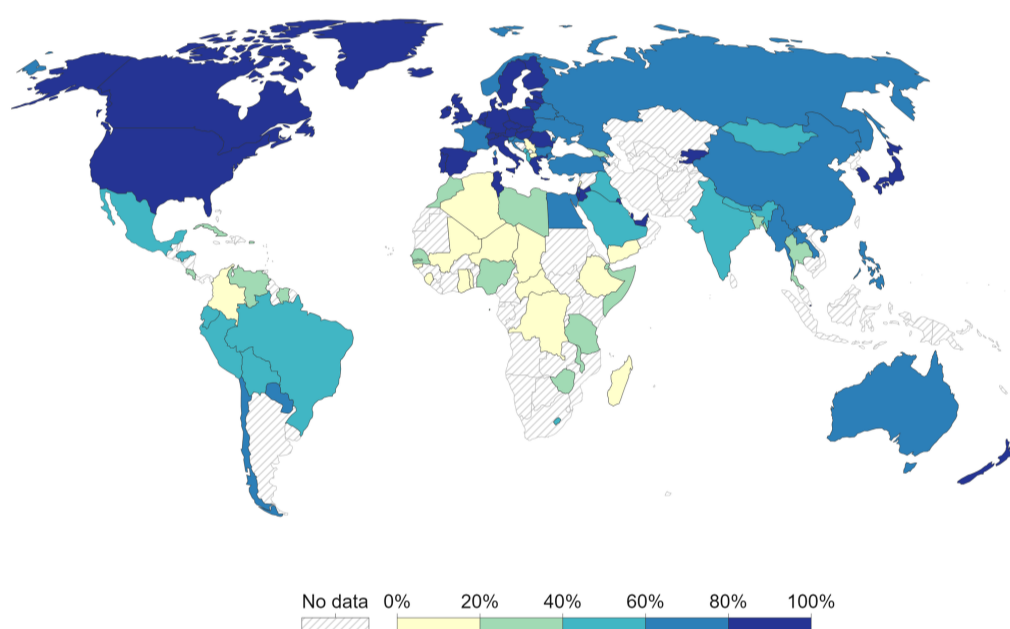


**BY 2025, 50% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO LIVE IN WATER-STRESSED AREAS AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WITH LOW-INCOME FAMILIES BEARING THE GREATEST BRUNT OF THIS CRISIS.**

## NEARLY HALF OF THE WORLD DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE SANITATION

Share of the population with access to safely managed sanitation, 2020

Safely managed sanitation is improved facilities which are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed in situ or transported and treated off-site.



Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation

**SDG Target 6.2 is to: "achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation" by 2030.**

**Where are we today? In 2020, just over half (54%) of the world population had access to safely managed sanitation. It is shocking that nearly one-in-two don't. Around 6% do not have any sanitation facilities at all, and instead have to practice open defecation.**

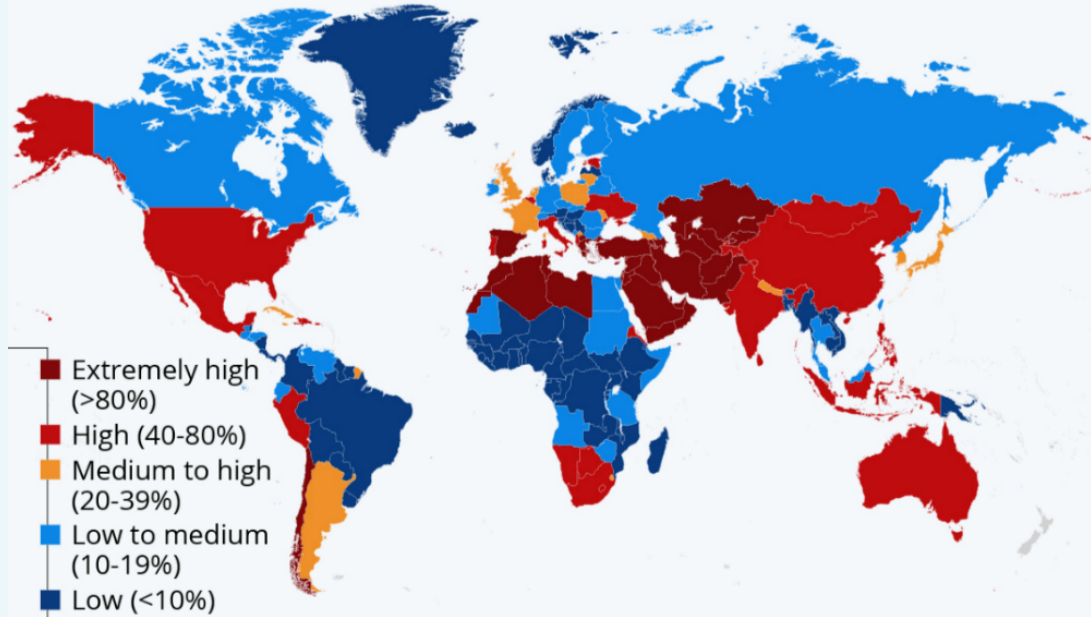
**According to the forecasts, 44 countries will face "extremely high" or "high" levels of water stress by 2040.**

As the World Resources Institute report warns, "at the same time, rising sea levels are putting an increasing number of areas, particularly in East and Southeast Asia, at increased risk of flooding, which can overwhelm sanitation systems and pollute drinking water sources."

The world's water-related ecosystems are being degraded at an alarming rate. Over the past 300 years, over 85% of the planet's wetlands have been lost.

### Where Water Stress Will Be Highest by 2040

Projected ratio of water withdrawals to water supply (water stress level) in 2040



Source: World Resources Institute via The Economist Intelligence Unit

**Water is the best investment the world can make to reduce disease, increase family income, keep girls in school, and change lives.**

LEARN MORE : [UN WATER](#) | [BE THE CHANGE](#)