

- More than half of Africa's people lack access to safe drinking water (UN)
- Of all the renewable water available in Africa each year, only 4% is used -- because most Africans lack wells, canals, pumps, reservoirs and other irrigation systems (Africare)
- In developing countries, one person uses an average of 10 litres of water per day. In the Developed world, one person uses an average of 300 litres (<http://www.epa.gov/>)
- Each flush of the toilet uses the same amount of water that one person in the Third World uses all day for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking (www.whrnet.org).
- In the past ten years, diarrhoea has killed more children worldwide than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II (Water Aid)
- Twelve million people die each year from lack of safe drinking water, including more than 3 million from waterborne diseases (WHO)
- Over 80% of the disease in developing countries is related to poor drinking water and sanitation (WHO)
- 1.5 billion people in the world are suffering from parasite infections, which can cause malnutrition, anaemia and delayed growth, due to the presence of solid human waste in the environment. Many of these infections could be controlled with improved hygiene, clean water and sanitation (www.whrnet.org).
- The average distance a woman in Africa and Asia walks to collect water is 6 km (www.whrnet.org)
- The weight of water that women in Asia and Africa carry on their heads is equivalent to the maximum baggage weight allowed by airlines – 20 kg (www.whrnet.org)
- Women are the primary caretakers for those who fall ill from water-related diseases, reducing their time available for education and productive economic efforts (<http://www.unfpa.org>)
- One-third of women in Egypt walk more than an hour a day for water; in other parts of Africa, the task can consume as much as eight hours (www.unfpa.org)
- Medical research has documented cases of permanent damage to women's health as a result of carrying water, such as chronic fatigue, spinal and pelvic deformities, and effects on reproductive health including spontaneous abortion (<http://www.unhabitat.org>)
- In some parts of Africa, women expend as much as 85% of their daily energy intake on getting water, increasing incidences of anaemia and other health problems (<http://www.unhabitat.org/>)