

# the global water crisis



## FACTS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

"Water is a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights."

- UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 2002.

- One in six people in the world lack safe drinking water.
  - Water-related illnesses are the leading cause of human sickness and death.
  - A child dies every 15 seconds from a water-related illness.
  - 4,900 children die each day from diarrhea.
  - In 1998, 308,000 people died from war in Africa, but more than two million died from diarrheal disease.
  - Half of the world's hospital beds are currently occupied by patients suffering from a water-borne disease.
  - 2.2 million people in developing countries, most of them children, die every year from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation.
- In China, India and Indonesia, twice as many people are dying from diarrheal diseases as from HIV/AIDS.
  - Over 76 million people will perish from water-related diseases by 2020 unless urgent action is taken.
  - The World Health Organization estimates that every \$1 invested in water and sanitation yields between \$3 and \$34 in reduced medical costs and increased productivity.