



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



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GOAL



CHALLENGES



DATA



ACTIONS



Water scarcity affects more than 40 % of the world's population, an alarming percentage that is projected to rise as temperatures do, as a result of climate change. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent.

Safe universal access to affordable drinking water for all is sought by 2030; achieving affordable access to suitable sanitation and hygiene services for all and improving the quality of the water by reducing pollution.

To make this a reality, we must increase international co-operation and support provided to developing countries to create activities and programmes relating to water and sanitation, including stocking and storing, desalination, making efficient use of water resources, waste water treatment and recycling and reuse technologies. Moreover, we must support and reinforce the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Water: the beginning of everything

Water is the source of life. Humans have made this element the backbone of its development, setting up next to rivers, inventing structures to transport it, channelling it for agriculture and, in short, ensuring a permanent supply that the great demographic explosion and unquestionable climate change are starting to undermine in a concerning manner.

The United Nations have established as a goal guaranteeing the availability of water, its responsible management and sanitation for all, therefore aware of the vital importance of this resource for mankind. It is no exaggeration to state that achieving

this goal is crucial for meeting the other Sustainable Development Goals or a large part of them.

The shortage of water resources requires great social awareness and the commencement not only of significant actions implemented by governments, but also of small gestures by all of us, always aimed at a responsible rational consumption of such a scarce but essential asset as water.

At Auren, we are actively committing to this goal by joining projects seeking to improve the supply of water to unprotected areas. Furthermore, as professionals, we prepare reports on the suitable treatment of waste water by different companies.





By 2030:

- Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
 - Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.
 - Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
 - Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
 - Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
 - Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
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- Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.
 - Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.



The Earth contains around 1.386 billion cubic kilometres of water.

Only 0.007% of the water existing on Earth is drinkable, and that amount falls year after year due to pollution.

Reference: www.fundacionaquae.org

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population.

In 2025, around 2 billion people will live in countries or regions where water scarcity will be absolute and water resources per person will be below the recommended 500 cubic metres per year, the amount of water a person needs to have a healthy hygienic life.

Reference: www.fundacionaquae.org

4.500 people lack safely managed sanitation services.

Some 3 in 10 people worldwide lack access to safe, readily available water at home, and 6 in 10 lack safely managed sanitation services.

Reference: www.worldbank.org

At present, 70% of the world's water is used for agriculture.

By the year 2050, feeding 9 billion people will require a 50 percent increase in food production and a 15 percent increase in water withdrawal

Reference: www.worldbank.org

Almost 600 million children lacked a basic drinking water service at their school.

Less than half the schools in Oceania and only two thirds of schools in Central and South Asia have a basic drinking water service.

Reference: www.unicef.org

Unsafe water and poor sanitation are a leading cause of child mortality.

Childhood diarrhoea is closely associated with insufficient water supply, inadequate sanitation, water contaminated with communicable disease agents, and poor hygiene practices. Diarrhoea is estimated to cause 1.5 million child deaths per year, mostly among children under five living in developing countries.

Reference: www.un.org

Of the 2.1 billion people who do not have safely managed water, 844 million do not have even a basic drinking water service.

This includes 263 million people who have to spend over 30 minutes per trip collecting water from sources outside the home, and 159 million who still drink untreated water from surface water sources, such as streams or lakes.

Reference: www.who.int

In low- and middle-income countries, 38% of health care facilities lack access to even rudimentary levels of water, 19% lack sanitation and 35% do not have water and soap for handwashing.

Reference: www.who.int



PRINCIPAL MEASURES:

- Making people aware of the consequences of the lack of water.
- Investing in intelligent preservation and storage technologies.
- Reutilising waste water.
- Devoting more financing to water projects.
- Reducing corporate water footprint.

PROPOSALS ON A GLOBAL LEVEL:

- Education is a common prerequisite for improving water quality: development of sensitisation programmes, development education and citizen mobilisation around the right to water.
- Creating the policies needed in order to reform the water sector: the fair distribution of water resources among human consumers, the environment, industry and agriculture.
- Providing aid for research and promoting new water treatment technologies, providing sustainable solutions for water management.

- Separating drinking water from waste water by building sanitation infrastructures.
- Investing time and resources in developing adaptable purifying devices that are reliable, robust and low-cost.
- Dealing with the protection of water quality through careful land regulations and the assignment of water to different users.
- Facilitating access to drinking water and treating it.
- Protecting and recovering fresh water ecosystems.
- Safeguarding access to water and the right to the use of water and avoiding the privatisation and marketing of water.
- Encouraging citizen participation in water planning and management.
- Improving the quality of water by reducing pollution, eliminating spillage and increasing recycling and reuse.





PROPOSALS FOR DAILY LIFE:

Advice for saving water in the kitchen

Only let water run from the tap to rinse plates and turn the tap off while washing them.

Make sure taps do not drip when you are not using them.

Only use the dishwasher and washing machine when they are completely full and using a water-saving programme.

Wash fruit and vegetables in a recipient and not under a running tap.

Defrost food by removing it from the freezer in time, or defrost it in a microwave, instead of wasting water in order to defrost it.

Use the water from the previous point to water plants.

Soak pots and pans for a few minutes before washing them in order to avoid a disproportionate waste of water.

Choose to keep water cool by leaving it in the fridge or use solar heating systems to obtain hot water, so as not to waste water by waiting for it to come out hot or cold.

Consider appliances bearing A-grade efficiency and ecology stickers, as well as cisterns with a dual flush and flush interruption system

Advice for saving water in the bathroom

Turn off the tap while you're shaving or brushing your teeth.

Turn off the shower while you're washing your hair.

Have a shower instead of a bath, and don't shower for too long. If possible, for just a couple of minutes.

Check your toilet tank has no leaks. Also check that the chain closes when the tank empties.

Check that all the taps have tap aerators.

Throw toilet roll in a waste paper basket and not down the toilet, thus avoiding unneeded use of it.

Use a sprinkler in the shower head to reduce consumption by half without even realising it.

Do not waste the water that runs while waiting for hot or cold: store it in a bucket and use it for something else.





ACTIONS

Advice for saving water in the garden

Water the lawn and plants in the morning or at night, avoiding times of greater water evaporation.

Check for leaks in taps, hoses, water pumps, etc. As they are in the garden, it's easy for us to miss a leak.

Use a brush instead of a hose for cleaning outside and sweeping leaves.

Water small areas by hand and larger areas with a sprinkler. Programme sprinklers and use them efficiently following the manufacturer's advice.

Keep the lawn free from vegetation and bushes, especially on slopes and areas more difficult to water.

Wash your pets in the garden when they need to be hosed down.

Don't throw water away when it can be used for something else, such as watering plants or cleaning the house.

Avoid using a hose for cleaning as more water is wasted. Always try to use a bucket.

Advice for saving swimming pool water

Avoid water evaporation by covering the pool when possible. This will also stop it from becoming dirty so you won't have to



constantly use devices such as automatic pool cleaners.

Check there are no leaks. To do so, mark the water level and, 24 hours later, check the level is the same. Turn off the automatic filling device while you carry out this check.



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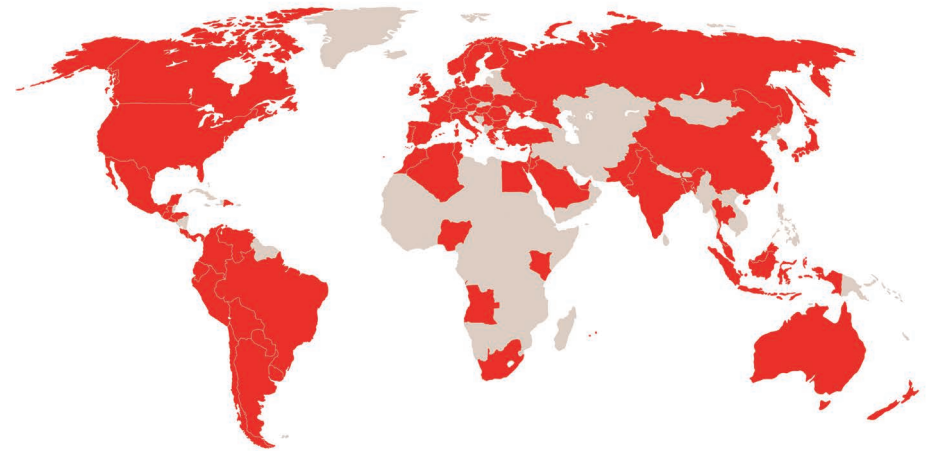
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