

# Water Insecurity

What it is, what you should know, and what you can do to stop it

What contributes to water insecurity?



**Water insecurity is a big issue.**

Lack of safe drinking water has a greater death toll than war, terrorism, and conflict combined.

**What you can do to help the effort:**

## What is water insecurity?

The U.N. describes water security as: "The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability." Basically, water insecurity is the lack of access to clean water.



## How big of an issue is it?

Over 800 million people completely lack access to clean water, and 663 million lack access to adequate improved drinking water sources. 2.1 billion people worldwide do not have access to clean water in their home. In the United States, over 1.6 million citizens reported lacking access to clean running water. Unsafe water and inadequate access to clean water causes health issues and severe disease like diarrhea and Guinea Worm Disease. It also prevents thousands of children, especially girls, from attending school in developing countries. According to Business Connect, waterborne diseases caused 289 cases of illness, 108 hospitalizations, and 17 deaths in the United States in 2013. Water insecurity affects millions of people around the world, and in the United States.



**1**

### CONSERVE WATER

Find ways to save water in your own life. Take the 5 minute shower challenge, use grey water to irrigate plants, or eat less meat.

**2**

### CONTACT CONGRESS

Locate your Congressional representatives. Call and email them to support WICC-endorsed legislation, and other initiatives that tackle water insecurity in the U.S. and in foreign countries.

**3**

### DONATE & PARTICIPATE

Donate to WICC and other charities that work to end water insecurity. Participate in local events (especially WICC events if you're local!) that educate and promote awareness about water insecurity.

