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Water Supply



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A new school handpump in south-western Senegal.

forced to pay exorbitant prices for water from vendors. Water from these sources is often contaminated, and rarely enough to meet the needs of households.. All over the developing world, women and girls spend hours every day on the drudgery of hauling water for their families from distant sources. And in urban slums, many poor people are forced to pay exorbitant prices for water from vendors. Water from these sources is often contaminated, and rarely enough to meet the needs of households.

Poor quality water causes disease and death (see the [Water Quality page](#)), but not enough water is even more dangerous. Without a sufficient quantity of water basic hygiene is impossible and the result is a host of hygiene-related diseases, notably diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection (ARI), the two greatest killers of children.

Studies show that when water sources are more than 30 minutes away from their homes, people – and especially children – are highly vulnerable to hygiene-related diseases. But many people live further away from their water. UNICEF surveys from sub-Saharan Africa, for example, show that over 40 percent of households are at least this far from the nearest water source. In some areas the situation is getting worse. Environmental degradation, over-pumping and now global warming is further diminishing already scarce freshwater resources.



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A girl carrying water home in southern Sudan.

development of national policies, finance arrangements and other “enabling environments” to facilitate affordable and sustainable water systems for poor people.

Water supply is also a key component of the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme, in which UNICEF works with the Carter Center, WHO and other partners in the African countries where the disease remains endemic. Much progress has been made by the programme, and the hope is that transmission of guinea worm can

In the area of water much progress has been made and the world is now on track to meet the MDG water target. However, there are still 884 million people who use unimproved and usually unsafe water sources. All over the developing world, women and girls spend hours every day on the drudgery of hauling water for their families from distant sources. And in urban slums, many poor people are

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The Rural Water Supply Network

Link to more information on the work of the [Rural Water Supply Network \(RWSN\)](#) on hand drilled wells.

[Technical standards for low cost manually drilled boreholes \[Fr\]](#)

Video

Film on manual drilling in Africa: [part 1](#) (7:44), [part 2](#) (5:13)

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