UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Jack Goate



PRE COVID-19

Billions of human beings lack the access to clean, sanitary water that is recognised by the UN as a human right.

2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water and 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation. That's over 50% of the world's population.

It was reported that in 2016, two in five health care facilities worldwide don't have: soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

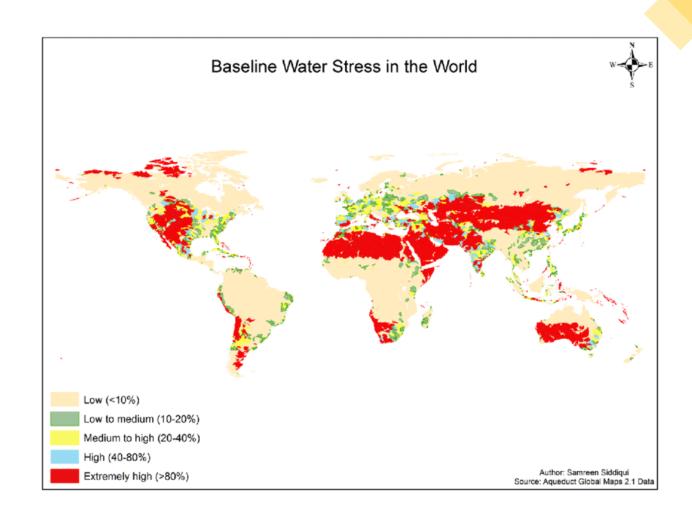


Who does this affect?

As of now (2021) billions of people worldwide are affected and still live without safe drinking water. These billions still live without proper sanitation, and this is critical for protection of human health, especially as of now due to covid-19.

The need for water heavily outweighs the availability of water, (water stress) and regions like western, southern Asia and northern Africa have water stress levels of over 70%

South-eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa saw an increase in their water stress levels from 2017 to 2018.



Who is in most need?

Children are in most need, they are the biggest victims of water insecurity. Eastern and Southern Africa as a region has the highest proportion of children experiencing water vulnerability.

According to a report from UNICEF, 1 in 5 children around the world do not have enough clean water for their everyday needs.

India, has by far the highest number of children facing water vulnerability, followed by Ethiopia.



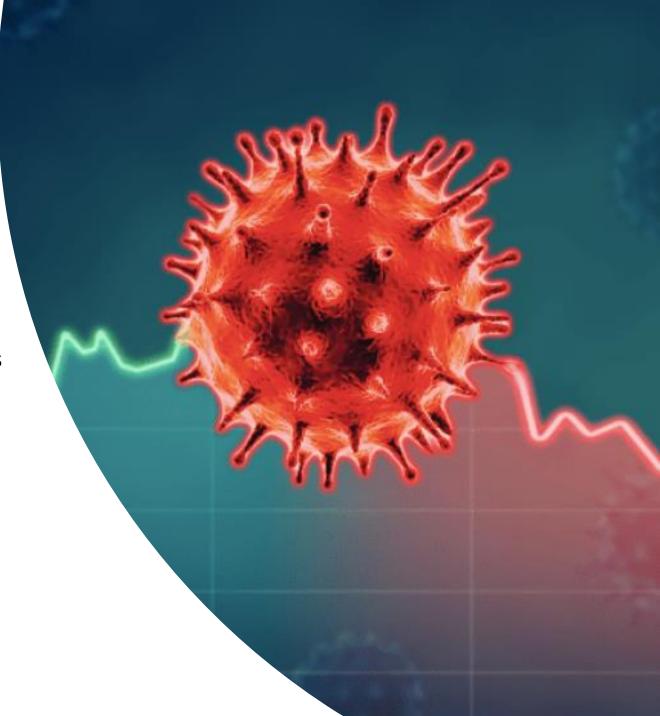
ISSUES FACED

Sustainable goal 6 is trying to ensure the availability of water and sanitary, clean water for everyone by 2030. However, many countries are experiencing funding gaps of about 61% while trying to achieve this goal.

In 2020, 129 countries were not on track to hit the target by 2030. slowing the process down and causing time lost.

COVID-19 has led to more inconveniences like contaminated water and resources being used elsewhere to combat the virus.

There have been increasing amounts of pollution and contaminated water sources; urgent action to protect and restore has taken place to try save these ecosystems.



Solutions to water vulnerability

- 1. Provide access to safe and affordable drinking water services
- 2. Ensure that all water, sanitation and hygiene services will be resilient during climate shocks and sustainable.
- 3. Prevent water scarcity crises through early action, water resources assessments and efficient use
- 4. Build water cooperation for peace and stability, including preventing attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure and personnel in conflict zones.



How I would try and attempt to achieve the goal

I would try to secure and maintain a clean standard of the current water sources that are used. This will be to prevent any dangers to the water instead of trying to fix what is beyond repair. Essentially preserving the clean water sources before its too late.

Preserving these areas is won't be as expensive as having to restore them later.

Funding areas like southern Asia to clean up and restore the water sources are extremely necessary to achieving goal 6 and paying attention to these areas is the most essential thing we can do.

Areas like Latin America, eastern Asia, northern and southern Africa are in dire need of sanitary products. Their hospitals don't even have alcoholic hand rub to keep the areas safe and sanitary. Funding is needed to save lives in these countries and correct medical equipment is necessary to reach the target by 2030.



(Achieving the goal continued)

New technology advancements we have made like the 'life straw' allow people to drink dirty water through this straw while preventing nasty microbes from entering your system and damaging your health.

Teaching children from an early age about the importance of water and how to avoid damaging the earths natural resources are extremely important. These teachings will build a strong element of respecting the environment and how to avoid polluting water ecosystems. This is very important for our rising generations who will have to face similar struggles when it comes to water and sanitation.



Thank you for reading, I really hope you can take something useful away and you hopefully learnt something.

-Jack Goate