



WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE UN – UNDERSTANDING THE LINKS

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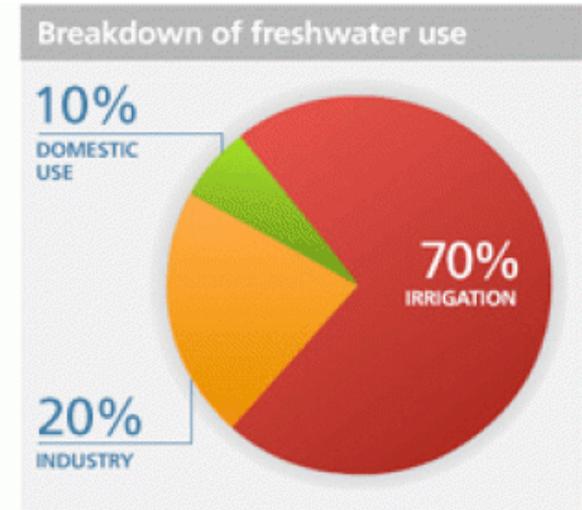
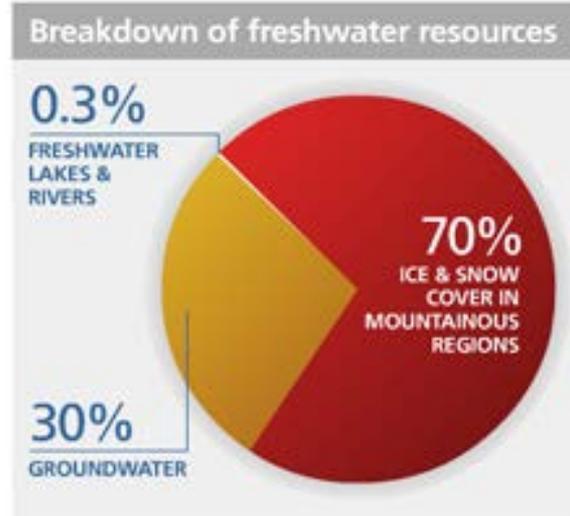
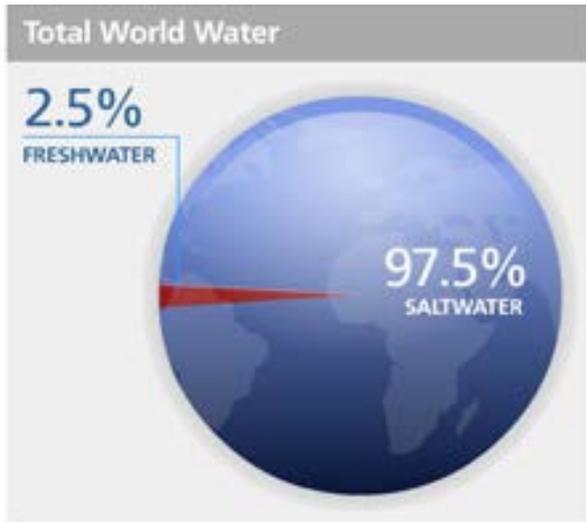
Division for Sustainable Development



THE BLUE PLANET

Seen from above, we know that the planet Earth is mostly made up of water – about 70% of its surface.

Fresh water is the source of all life on our planet and essential for our daily activities – including human life.



BREAKDOWN OF WATER RESOURCES

Yet precious freshwater, in the form we can use, is limited. The vast majority of available freshwater goes to agriculture – food production.

(UN-Water statistics)



AGRICULTURE



FORESTRY



FISHERIES



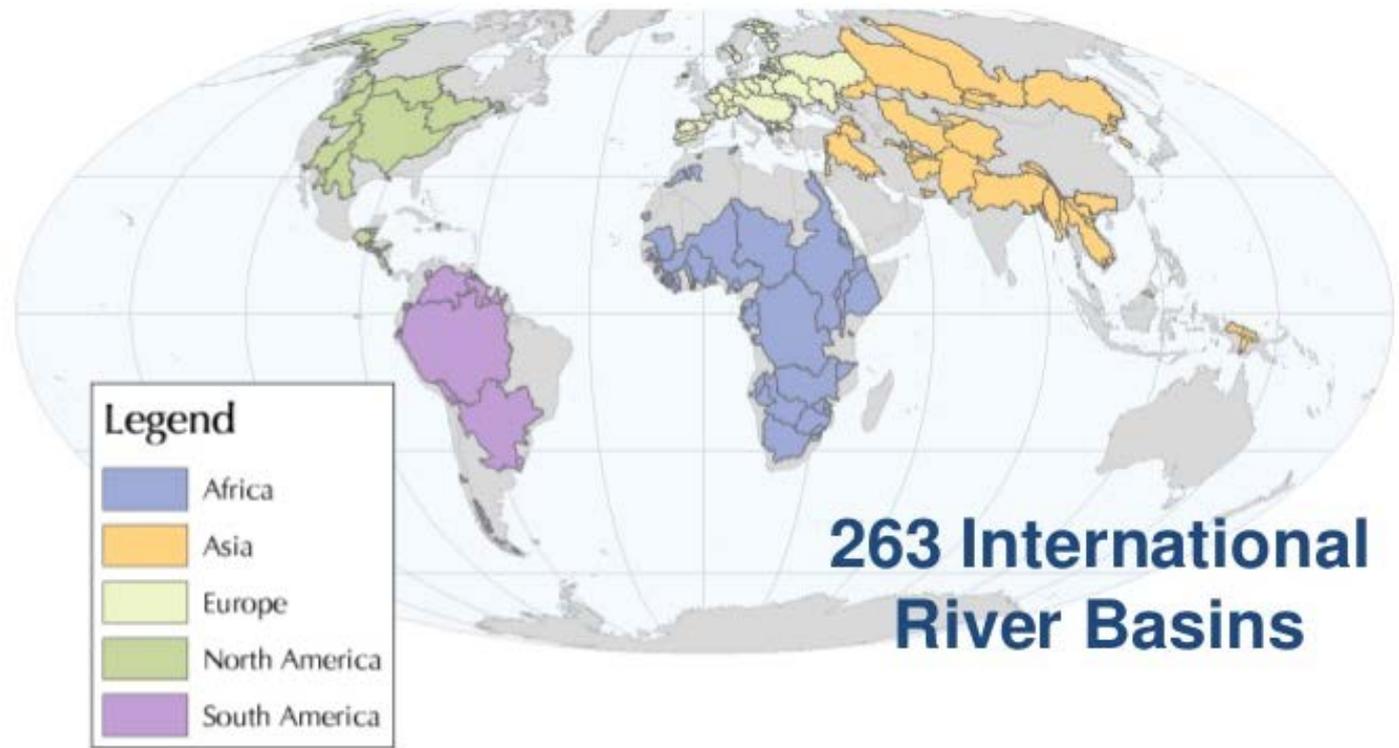
ENERGY



WATER, JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Water, however, is essential for nearly every human activity on the planet – with the health of the economy and jobs dependent on it.

(UN-Water statistics – 2016 World Water Development Report)



TRANSBOUNDARY WATER BASINS

145 countries (out of 193 UN Member States) share water across their borders, yet often a cause of cooperation rather than conflict

(UNESCO / UN Economic Commission for Europe)



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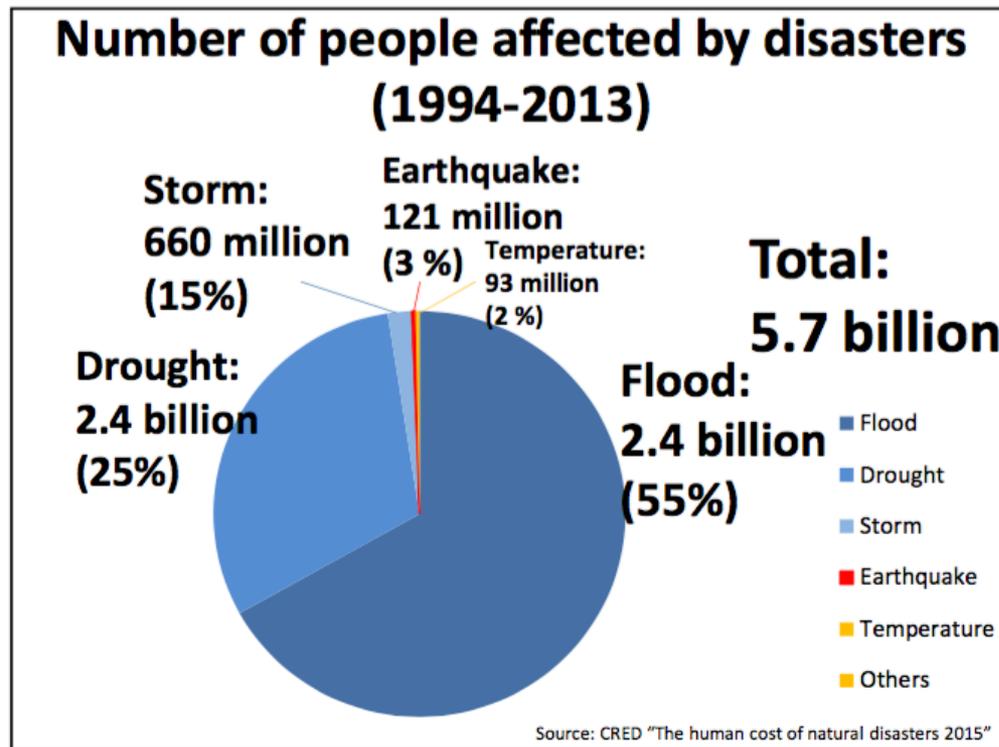




CLIMATE CHANGE = CHANGES TO THE WATER CYCLE

Most of the effects of climate change, in the form of destructive storms, saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise, drought and flood: these are set to increase in severity, intensity and unpredictability.

(World Meteorological Organization)



WATER-RELATED DISASTERS AFFECT MOST PEOPLE

Together, flood, drought and storms affected more than 5 billion people in the 20 years to 2013 – almost 90% of the total.

(CRED)

Projected impacts by climate change by sector

Phenomenon and direction of trend	Agriculture, forestry and ecosystems	Water resources	Human health	Industry, settlements and society
Warmer and more frequent hot days & nights (Certain)	Decreased yields in warmer environments	Effects on water resources relying on snow melt	Reduced human mortality	Declining air quality
Warm spells / heat waves (Very likely)	Reduced yields in warmer regions	Increased water demand; water quality problems	Increased risk of heat-related mortality	Reduction in quality of life; impacts on elderly, very young & poor
Heavy precipitation events (Very likely)	Damage to crops; soil erosion	Contamination of water supply	Infectious respiratory & skin disease	Disruption of societies due to flooding
Area affected by drought increases (Likely)	Land degradation, lower yields	More widespread water stress	Increased risk of water-borne diseases	Water shortages; reduced hydropower
Intense tropical cyclone activity increases (Likely)	Damage to crops	Disruption of public water supply	Increased risk of water-borne diseases	Disruption by flood; potential for migrations
Increased incidence of extreme high sea level (Likely)	Salinisation of irrigation	Decreased freshwater availability	Increased risk of water-borne diseases	Costs coastal protection



A MATTER OF GLOBAL CONCERN

In 2010, the United Nations declared the **human right to drinking water and sanitation**, making it an essential right for all people on this planet.

(UNGA Resolution A/RES/64/292)



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Countries in which less than 50% of the population uses improved drinking water sources are all located in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania

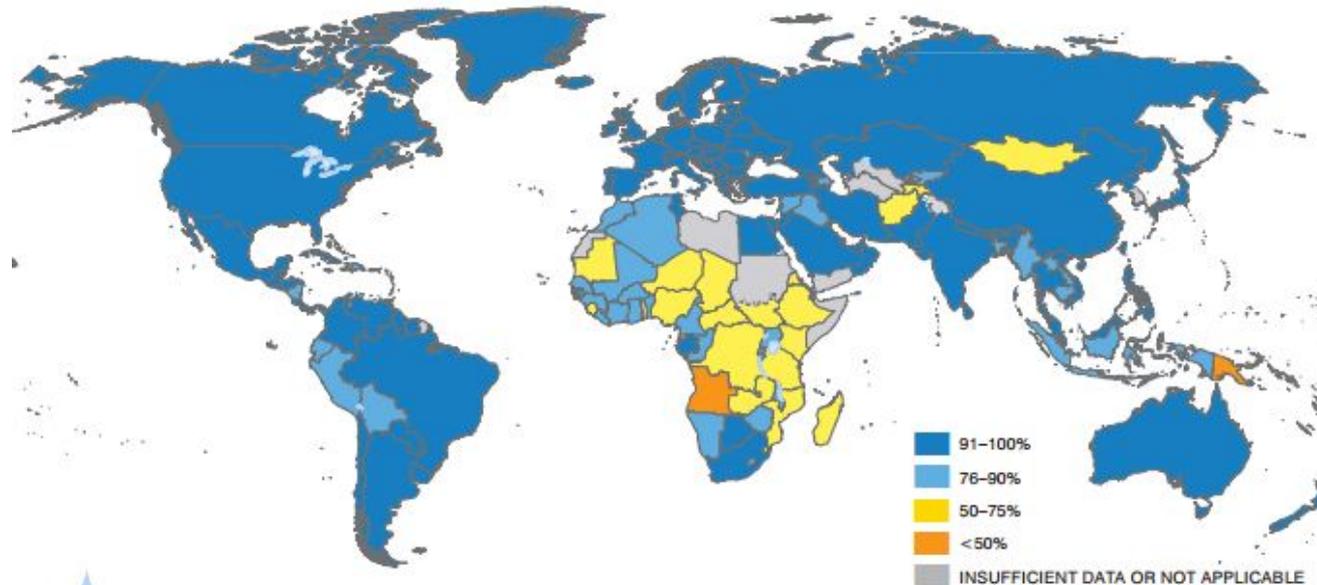


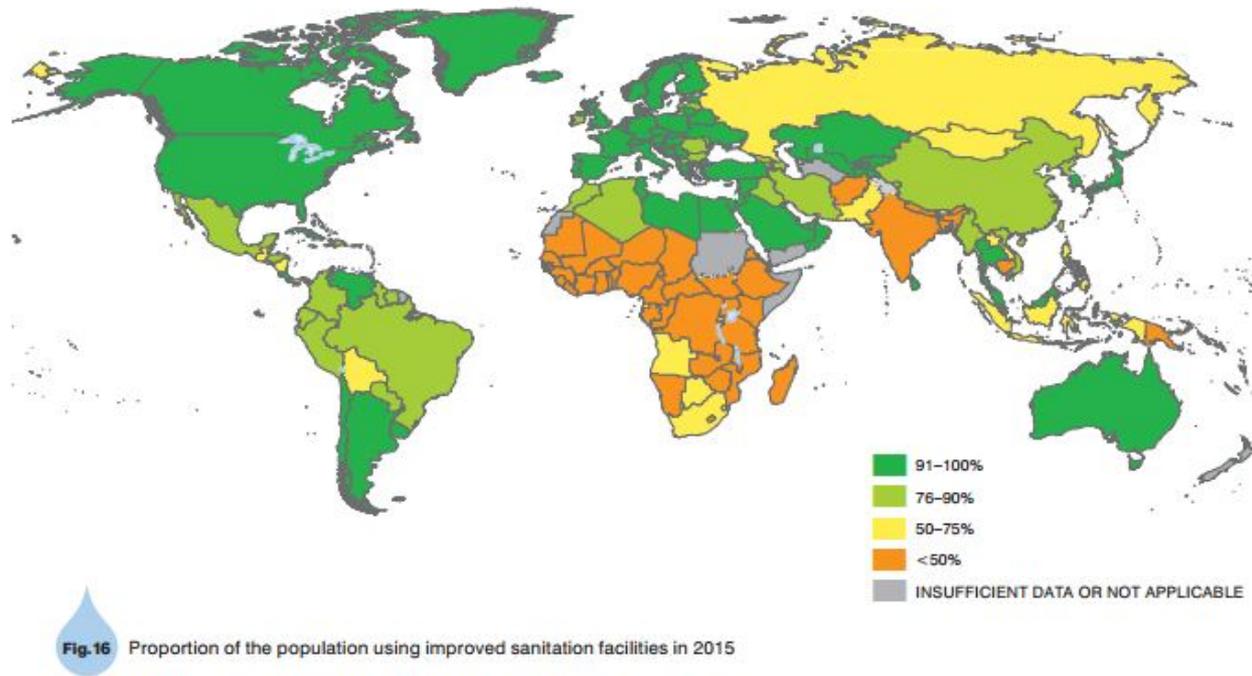
Fig.7 Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources in 2015

ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER

Drinking water access is measured by colleagues at WHO/UNICEF. Enormous progress (2.6 billion during the MDGs), but still disparities between urban-rural, rich-poor. 663 million still unserved.

(WHO/UNICEF JMP 2015 update and MDG Assessment)

In 47 countries, areas or territories, less than half the population uses improved sanitation in 2015



ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION

Sanitation access is much further off-track. 2.1 billion gained access in the MDGs, but 2.4 billion still lack it. 47 countries still have less than 50% of their population with access, and great disparities still remain.

(WHO/UNICEF JMP 2015 update and MDG Assessment)



Unsafe Water kills
200 CHILDREN EVERY HOUR

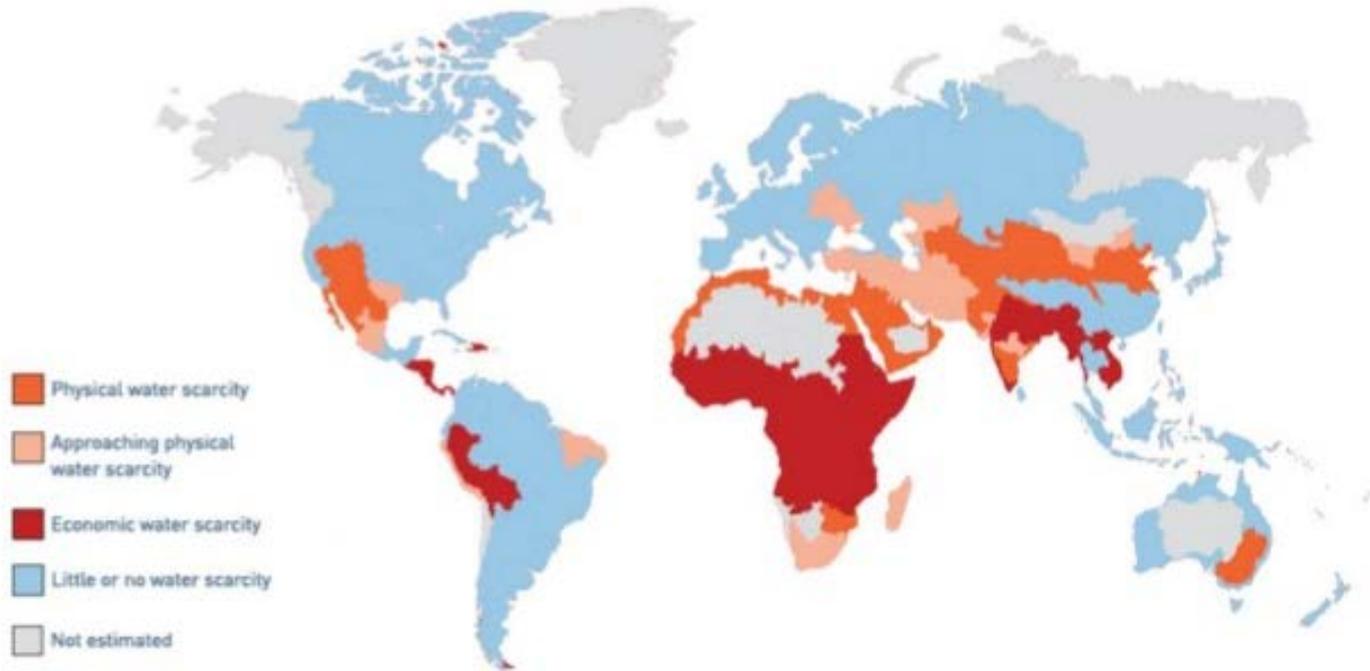


THE PROBLEM WITH POOR SANITATION

Poor sanitation, and diarrheal diseases linked to it, are a leading cause of death in children under five - nearly **1 million deaths a year.**

(WHO)

Areas of physical and economic water scarcity

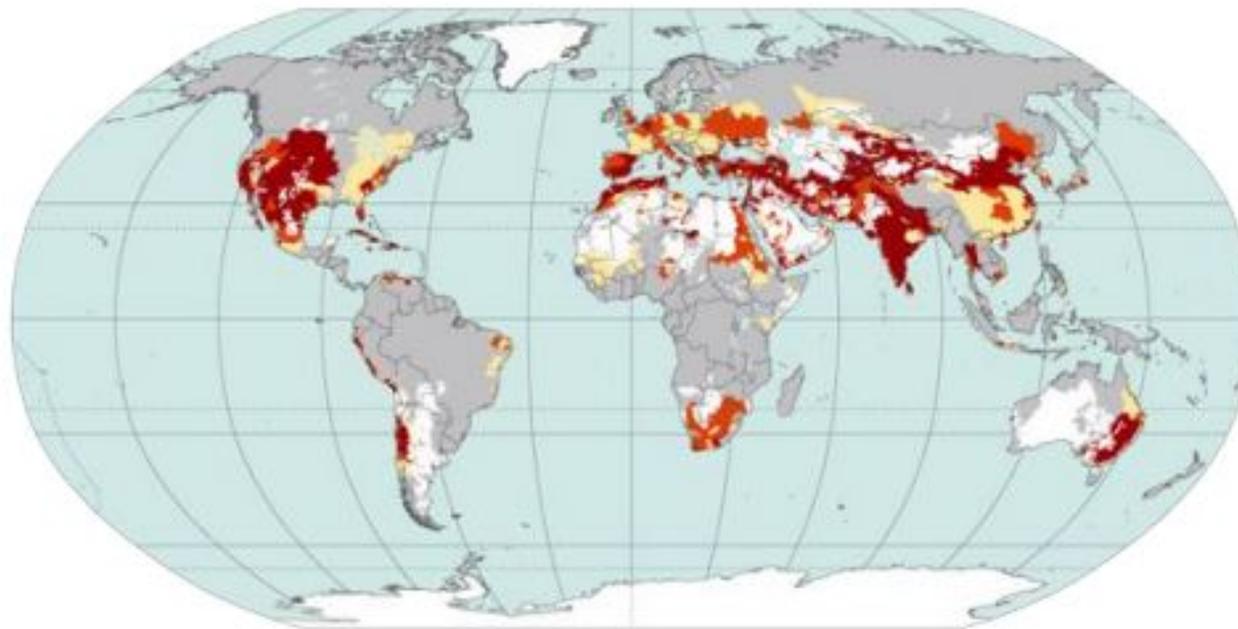


GLOBAL WATER SCARCITY STATISTICS

Many places around the world suffer from water scarcity – the physical lack of enough water to meet human and economic needs. Currently 41 countries, but estimates of up to 2 billion people by 2030.

(FAO, 2013)





Annual average water withdrawals-to-availability ratio

0 – 0.1 (no water stress) 0.1 – 0.2 (low water stress) 0.2 – 0.4 (mid water stress) more than 0.4 (high water stress) no data

GLOBAL WATER STRESS LEVELS

Water stress, which will be measured in the SDGs, also takes environmental requirements into account.

(FAO)





UN AT WORK: WATER USE EFFICIENCY

30% increase in water use efficiency in agriculture could reduce or eliminate water scarcity.

(FAO)



UN WATER

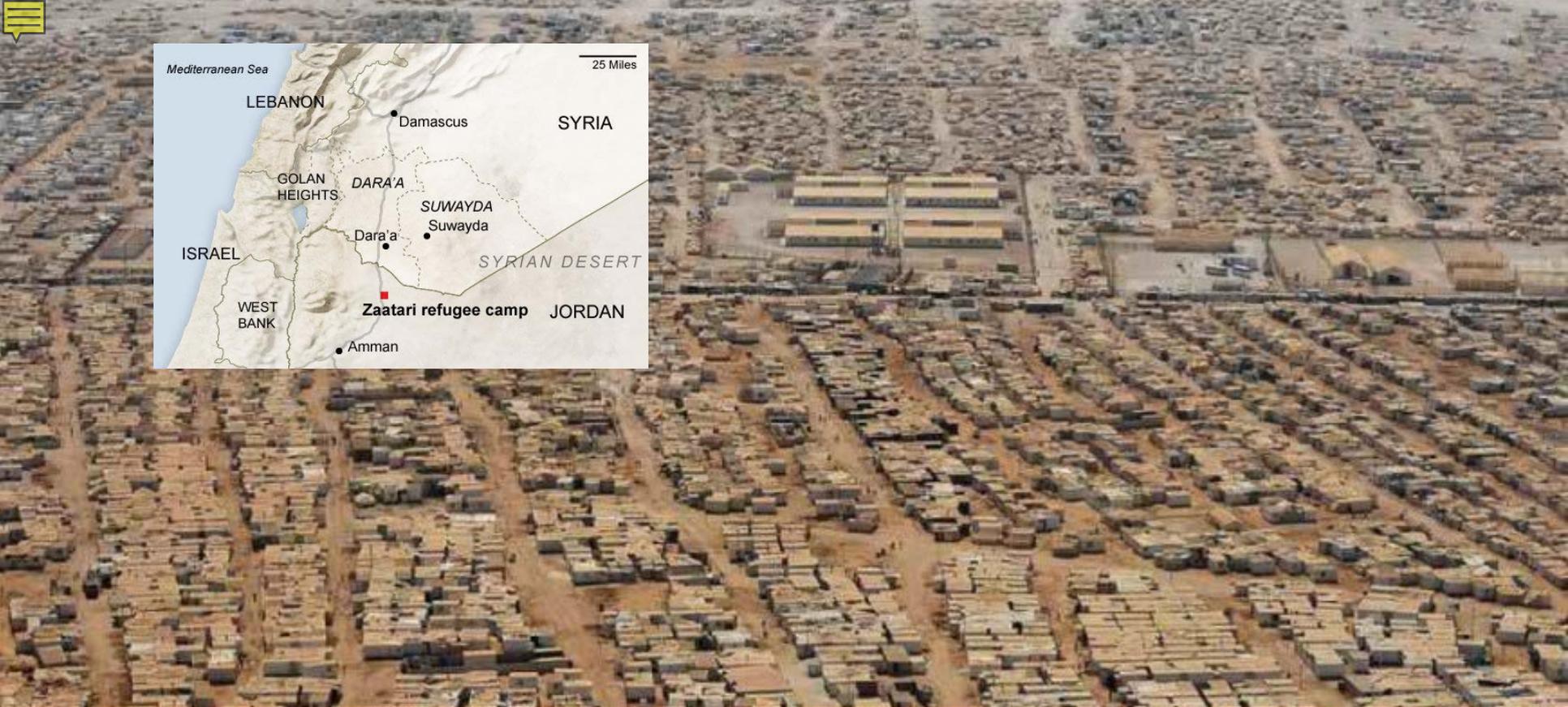


UN AT WORK: DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Ethiopia: worst drought in 50 years, exacerbated by flash floods
18 million people in need of food aid (>20% population).

(The Guardian, 23 April 2016)

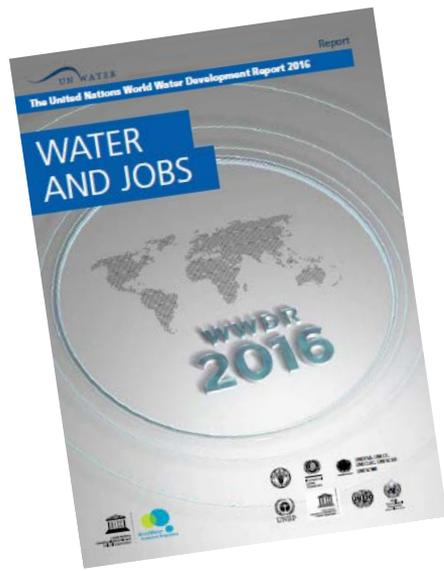




UN AT WORK: REFUGEES AND ACCESS

At the Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan – 83,000 refugees. Total of 1/6 in the population. Water and sanitation access are under strain in an already water stressed country.





HOW UN-WATER WORKS

UN-Water works by consolidating the technical input of the UN system to provide a coherent message into policy processes, including SDG 6 and two of the UN's global information campaigns. Also involved in assisting countries with monitoring and reporting of the water-related SDGs.



THANK YOU

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www.unwater.org

