

Facts

Annual child deaths due to dirty water and poor sanitation and hygiene: 2.2 million

Number of people without easy access to safe water: 1.1 billion (85% rural)

Number of people without easy access to decent sanitation: 2.4 billion (78% rural)

Number of undernourished people: 842 million (75% rural)

Number of people living on less than two dollars a day: 2.7 billion (75% rural)

Number of people displaced by dams: 40-80 million

Percent of world's food grown on rain-fed lands: 60-70%

The Good News: Comparative Costs of Solutions

Annual cost of bringing 100 million small farming families out of extreme poverty by 2015 with low-cost water technologies: \$2 billion

As percentage of annual investment in large dams in developing countries the 1990's: <10%

Average cost of drinking water, per person, from community-built rainwater harvesting schemes in Alwar, India: \$2

Estimated cost for drinking water, per person, from the notorious Sardar Sarovar dam project: \$200

Cost of conventional irrigation in Africa: \$5,000-\$25,000 per hectare

Cost of irrigation through Sardar Sarovar dam and canals (India): \$3,800/ hectare

Cost of treadle pumps and wells: \$117/ha (India/Bangladesh): \$233/ hectare (Africa)

Cost of Nepal drip irrigation kits: \$250/ hectare

Source: Spreading the Water Wealth: Making Water Infrastructure Work for the Poor, The Grim Statistics of Water