Water and Cities

Every second, the urban population grows by 2 people.

5 million city residents are joining the urban population in the developing world each month.

27% of the urban population in the developing world does not have piped water in its house.

827.6 million people live in slums, often lacking adequate drinking water and sanitation facilities.

493 million people in cities share their sanitation facilities. In 1990, this number was 259 million.

250 to 500 million m³ of drinking water leaks from the supply systems in many mega cities each year.

The poor pay more. A slum dweller in Nairobi pays 5 to 7 times more for a litre of water than an average North American citizen.

In Africa and Asia, the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030.

One of four city residents worldwide, 794 million in total, lives without access to improved sanitation facilities.

95% of the urban population growth in the next decades will take place in the developing world.

A lack of safe water and sanitation in cities leads to cholera, malaria and diarrhoea.