

# WATER SCARCITY

## Physical Water Scarcity

occurs when there is not enough water to meet all demands. Arid regions are most often associated with physical water scarcity, but an alarming new trend is an artificially created physical water scarcity due to overallocation and overdevelopment of water resources. Symptoms of physical water scarcity include, among other factors, severe environmental degradation and increasing occurrence of conflicts.

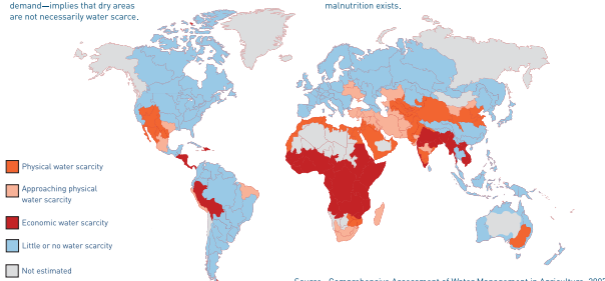


## Economic Water Scarcity

is caused by a lack of investment in water or a lack of human capacity to satisfy the demand for water, even in places where water is abundant. Symptoms of economic water scarcity include inadequate infrastructure development: people have trouble getting enough water for domestic and other purposes; high vulnerability to seasonal fluctuations: floods and drought; and inequitable distribution of water, even when infrastructure exists.

## AREAS OF PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC WATER SCARCITY

- **Physical water scarcity**  
water resources development is approaching or has exceeded sustainable limits). More than 75% of the river flows are withdrawn for agriculture, industry, and domestic purposes (accounting for recycling of return flows). This definition—relating water availability to water demand—implies that dry areas are not necessarily water scarce.
- **Approaching physical water scarcity.** More than 60% of river flows are withdrawn. These basins will experience physical water scarcity in the near future.
- **Economic water scarcity** (human, institutional, and financial capital limit access to water even though water in nature is available locally to meet human demands). Water resources are abundant relative to water use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes, but malnutrition exists.
- **Little or no water scarcity.** Abundant water resources relative to use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes.



Source: Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, 2007

## DID YOU KNOW?

Source: UNDP, 2005 - WHO and UNICEF, 2006

**2.6 Billion**



have no access to sanitation

**1.1 Billion**



have no access to clean water

**1 Billion**



live on less than \$1 per day

**963 Million**



are undernourished



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