

Global Statistics

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Water ↑

- **97.5%** of the water on Earth is saltwater.
- Less than **1%** of freshwater is above ground, amounting to only **0.01%** of the Earth's total water.
- **66%** of the human body is made up of water.
- At just 2% dehydration your performance decreases by around 20%.
- According to nutritionists we should drink at least 1½ litres of water a day.
- 90% of wastewater in developing countries is discharged directly into rivers and streams without treatment.
- **1.1 billion** people in the world do not have access to safe water. This is nearly **20%** of the population.
- **2.3 billion** people lack adequate sanitation. This is over a **third** of the world's population.
- **2.2 million** people, mostly children, die each year from illnesses caused by contaminated drinking water or poor sanitation.
- **7.2 billion** is the estimated world population for 2020. By then, the average supply of water per person is expected to drop by a **third**.
- One sixth of the world's population do not have access to safe water
- In poor countries a child dies every 15 seconds from water related diseases. *MPH*
- Some Ghanaians already spend up to 20% of their income on drinking water, Mr Amenga-Etego says, and poor urban families sometimes have to choose between water and education.
- The problem in Britain is that rainfall is heaviest in the North and West but there are more people and industries in the drier South and East.
- The supply doesn't meet demand – the rain is heavier in winter, demand is higher in summer.
- Storage and movement of water is important but expensive and quality must be controlled.
- In 1995 two billion people had no clean water supply – 40% of the world population
- This is a major health hazard – causing 80% of diseases in LEDCs
- Demand for water is also increasing as the countries develop and populations grow.
- Sanitation is limited to only 40% of the world's people – the rest do without!
- Rainfall Supplies can often be unreliable and limited in LEDCs – especially hot countries. In the worst cases, droughts can ruin crops and leave thousands without enough clean water. Eg SE Ethiopia, 2000
- The UN estimates that by 2025, two thirds of the world population won't have reliable, clean water
- LEDCs can improve the water situation
- Farmers can use sprays or drip-feeding to water their crops so no water is wasted.
- Self-help schemes can enable people to build simple wells like tube wells
- Concrete lining of wells can reduce water loss through evaporation and seepage
- Educating people about clean water and sanitation is also important

Food ↑

- 800 million people will go to bed hungry tonight

- The average person in Britain eats 15lbs of chocolate and 43 packets of biscuits each year
- Every day over 15,000 children die because they are malnourished. *Unicef*
- Many people confuse malnutrition with starvation, but it's not the same. Malnutrition is more insidious and widespread.
- Poor nutrition in the first two years of a child's life can slow their physical and mental development forever.

Climate ↑

- The world is heating up – fast. Temperatures are rising more quickly than they have done for 10,000 years.
- The main cause of greenhouse gases is from the combustion of oil, coal and gas.
- Released into the atmosphere, carbon dioxide remains there for around 100 years.
- The cutting down of forests that absorb carbon dioxide has added to the problem.
- The 1990s were the warmest decade on record, and 1998 was the hottest year.
- Sea levels have risen by between 10-25 centimetres in 100 years, as polar ice caps have melted. They are projected to rise another 50 centimetres by 2100.
- There have been unpredictable and extreme weather patterns – freak weather disasters such as Hurricane Mitch that hit Central America in 1998 and the floods in Mozambique in early 2000.
- The USA has only 4% of the world's population but is responsible for nearly a quarter of the CO₂ that people add to the atmosphere. *World Commission on Dams* www.dams.org
- The UK with 1% of the world's population produces 2.3% of the world's CO₂ *Friends of the Earth* www.foe.co.uk
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- Friends of the Earth Scotland have said that Tony Blair must do more to show he is serious about tackling climate change, by ensuring that the Government stands firm on setting tough caps on industrial emissions of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by less than a quarter of one percent since Labour took power in 1997. <http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/>
- 25% of Britain's harmful environmental emissions come from buildings.
- Risks of flooding are growing to "unacceptable levels" because of climate change with up to 4 million Britons facing the prospect of their homes being inundated, according to a report to be published today by the government. The report by the Office of Science and Technology gives the most chilling picture yet of how global warming will affect the lives of millions of Britons over the next half century.
- Compiled by 60 experts under the leadership of the government's chief scientist, Sir David King, it shows that many towns in Britain are threatened by rising sea levels, river flooding and the overwhelming of Victorian drains by flash floods. http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1200272,00.html Towns on the east coast which suffered in the floods of 1953 are in the area of highest risk, but the danger to Britain's older cities with Victorian sewerage systems is a newer problem. Drains are in danger of being overwhelmed, spilling water and sewage into homes, as well as being knocked out for weeks at a time - as happened in recent floods in central Europe.
- The government has prepared an extensive response to the report, pointing out that the Environment Agency is already looking at a replacement for the Thames barrier, which is likely to be overwhelmed sometime after 2030. Higher sea walls along the embankment into London will also be needed.

- But the government will point out that there is no legal obligation to defend property or land at all. "The aim is to reduce the risk of flooding or coastal erosion where it is sustainable to do so and where the proposed defence is economically, technically and environmentally sound."

Environment ↑

- In 2004 the Brazilian congress is voting on a project that will reduce the Amazon forest to 50% of its size.
the Amazon rainforest is responsible for the generation of 20% of the oxygen that we on this earth breathe
- 30% of the world's freshwater is contained within the Amazon basin
- 60% of the cancer fighting drugs used today are derived from plants that can only be found within the Amazon rainforest.
- The area to be deforested is 4 times the size of Portugal and would be mainly used for agriculture and pastures for livestock.
All the wood is to be sold to international markets in the form of wood chips, by large multinational companies.
- The truth is that the soil in the Amazon forest is useless without the forest itself. Its quality is very acidic and the region is prone to constant floods.
- At this time more than 160,000 square kilometres deforested with the same purpose are abandoned and in the process of becoming deserts, meaning that this proposal is in the short-term interests of a few, and in the long term interests of none.
- The equivalent of a football pitch a second of rainforest is destroyed
- One and a half acres of rainforest are destroyed every single second
- 2-5% of the existing rainforest is destroyed each year
- At the current rate, it will all be gone in 50 years

Education ↑

- One in four adults in the developing world cannot read or write a simple message
- 100 million primary aged children in poor countries do not go to school. *MPH*
- 94% of these are in developing countries
- Unable to read or write they are confined to a lifetime of poverty
- In Tanzania and Benin, the primary school population has increased by thousands since significant debt relief was granted. *MPH*
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Aids ↑

- An estimated 36 million people are living with HIV, 2.5 million from sub-Saharan Africa
- In 2003 AIDS killed 3 million people
- The UN is calling for at least \$10 billion to be spent worldwide on combating HIV/AIDS every year. That's less than one eightieth of global military spending.
- 5 people worldwide die of AIDS every minute
- Aids is the 4th biggest killer worldwide
- There are 3 million children living with HIV worldwide
- 2001 saw the largest number of people ever diagnosed with HIV in the UK
- 1st December is World AIDS day

- Over 40 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV and AIDs. 95% of this population lives in the developing world and most have no access to treatment. The overwhelming majority does not know that they are living with HIV
- The sub-saharan Africa is the most affected region and accounts for over 70% of the global total of people living with HIV and AIDS and 80% of the total global AIDS deaths.
- Useful websites www.unaids.org | www.worldAIDSday.org
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Trade ↑

- More than a third of electronics products are made in the developing world
- Three quarters of the salary of an electronics worker in Thailand goes on their family's food – they cannot risk losing their job by mentioning unfair working conditions
- Coffee is the fifth most widely traded commodity in the world. It is grown in frost free zones between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and is one of the few products that the Western world cannot produce for itself.
- Despite the overwhelming popularity of coffee in the West, many of the estimated 20 million people who are involved in growing coffee beans live in extreme poverty.
- This is because small producers rarely have direct access to the international markets and sell their coffee at a local level.
- When trading locally, farmers do get paid immediately in cash, but the price is often so low that it does not recoup the cost of production.
- Since the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in 1989, there has been no means of supporting coffee prices, leaving small farmers defenceless against falling prices.
- In 1991 Cafédirect was formed to provide a fairer deal for coffee growers. Now, with extremely low world coffee prices Cafédirect's work is more important than ever.
- Coffee is mainly traded on the New York and London futures (terminal) markets, which exert a strong influence on world coffee prices. These prices are notoriously volatile - they vary daily, hourly and even by the second, depending on factors such as the size of coffee stocks worldwide, the weather forecast, insecure political conditions and speculation on the futures markets.
- 90% of the world coffee trade is in green (unroasted) coffee beans. The main traders of green coffee worldwide are the Neumann Gruppe GMGH, Volcafe, Cargill and E.D. & F. Man. The four leading manufacturers who dominate the world coffee market are: Nestle, Procter and Gamble, Kraft and Sara Lee.
- Trade rules currently work in favour of rich countries which subsidise their own industries and therefore can sell their products more cheaply than producers from poorer countries. *MPH*
- Making trade fair could alleviate poverty much more than increased aid: it is estimated that fairer trade could be worth over three times the value of aid currently given by rich countries. *MPH*
- Unfair trade rules deprive poor countries of £1.3 billion a day. *MPH*
- "I was wrong, Free market trade policies hurt the poor... the rules of international trade are rigged against the poorest countries." *Stephen Byers, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry*
- "Day after day, their nunger feeds our supermarket shelves...We will not make poverty history until Africa has the right to feed iself before it feeds us." *Alan Simpson MP*

Population ↑

- In the next 20 years five billion people will live in towns and cities with 82% of these in Africa Asia and Latin America.
- Norfolk's population of over pensionable age will increase by 40% over the next ten years.

Health ↑

- In 2003, around 3000 people died in car crashes in the UK.
- In 2003, nearly 30,000 people died from obesity in the UK
- The average life expectancy in Malawi is 38 years. Half the population are under 15. Around 20% of the population are HIV positive.
- In 2004 two thirds of new doctors and half of new nurses came from developing countries.
- It cost their countries £271 million to train them. It would have cost the UK £2.7 billion
- Each year, 17 million people die of diseases that we can cure. *MPH*
- There is enough food in the world to feed everybody, but millions of people go hungry every day. *MPH*

Economy ↑

- Over a billion people live in absolute poverty. That's a fifth of the world's population trying to live on less than \$1 (65p) a day. *MPH*
- In 1970 the world agreed that the UN should set a target for an appropriate level of international aid. They estimated that countries should spend 0.7% of their wealth on international aid. Though this is a small percentage, many major developed countries including the UK have not been able to meet the target. Some countries such as the Netherlands and Norway have been giving more than 0.7% for years. Now France, Ireland, Finland and Belgium have also set a clear timetable for reaching this target.
- Today, rich countries give half as much aid (in proportion to their income) as they did in the 1960s. *MPH*
- In 1970 rich countries agreed to spend 0.7% of their Gross National Income on aid by 1980. But in 2005 almost all rich countries have failed to reach this target. *MPH*
- In 2004 the UK only spent 0.36% of its GNI on aid and aims to increase to 0.7% by 2013. *MPH*
- But if the UK met the 0.7% target by 2008 an extra 1.5 million people could be lifted out of poverty by that year. *MPH*
- Some countries in the South are still having to spend more on debt repayments than on the most basic needs of their own people. *MPH*
- The average family in the UK pays more than £200 in tax. It would cost only a couple of pounds to reach the 0.7% aid budget target. *MPH*
- Corruption is not just an African issue, it is prevalent in governments and businesses throughout the world. No G8 country has signed up to the UN Convention Against Corruption. *MPH*
- Nearly 1 in 4 people in Britain (just under 13 million people) lives in poverty. This includes nearly 1 in 3 children *Oxfam UK Poverty Programme*
- 6.5 million adults in the UK go without essential clothing such as a warm waterproof coat, because of lack of money. Over 10.5 million people live in financial insecurity. They can't afford to save, insure their house contents, or spend even small amounts on themselves. *Oxfam UK Poverty Programme*

- Women are poorer than men in the UK. Nearly 1 in 4 women lived in poverty in 1999/2000 compared with 1 in 5 men. *Oxfam UK Poverty Programme*
- 2 in every 3 Pakistani / Bangladeshi people, 1 third of Indians and Caribbeans and half of Black Africans in Britain live in poverty. Compared with under a quarter of the British population overall *Oxfam UK Poverty Programme*
- One in three children in Scotland is living in poverty. One child in four is being brought up in a household where no one is working. *Oxfam UK Poverty Programme*

Energy ↑

- 90% of Malawi's electricity is produced by hydroelectric power
- There are 600 million cars on the world's roads now, and this is expected to increase to 3 billion by 2020.
- There are 13,500 petrol stations across the UK supplying some 100,000 litres of petrol every day.
- At present developing countries own only 10% of the world's cars, but this is likely to grow.
- Percentage of renewable energy consumed in the U.S. in 1970; 6.0%.
Percentage of renewable energy expected to be consumed in the U.S. in 2005; 6.7%.
- Leaving the standby light on your TV uses 85% as much electricity as watching TV.
MPH

Waste ↑

- Each household on average produces over 500kg (half tonne) of waste each year
- In the Britain, enough plastic bags are thrown away to cover the country twice a year
- Released into the atmosphere, carbon dioxide remains there for around 100 years.

Crime ↑

- Norfolk Police attend a domestic incident on average every 55 mins, 1 in three of these take place with children in the home.
- An average of 736 people are killed or seriously injured on Norfolk roads each year.
- Up to 70% of the world's female murder victims are killed by male partners.
- In the USA four women die each day as a result of violence in the family – about 1,4000 women a year.
- In the UK one in four women experiences violence at the hands of a partner during her lifetime (Amnesty International)

War ↑ <http://www.controlarms.org/index.htm>

- The issue is simple. The unregulated supply of weapons makes it easy for criminals to murder, for soldiers to kill indiscriminately, and for police to arbitrarily take lives. Today's weapons are quicker and more powerful than ever before. And in the wrong hands, faster and more powerful weapons mean more abuse and more wasted lives
- “ A gun is as easy to get as a packet of cigarettes.”



Evan Jean Lolless, 34, serving life imprisonment for murder in the USA, 1997

- it is estimated that there is one gun for every 10 people on the planet – men, women, and children.
- 16 billion units of ammunition are produced each year. That is over 2 units for every person on the planet.
- More than ½ million people are killed by arms every year. That is one per minute.
- Small arms kill more civilians than any other type of weapon, yet still there are no binding international laws to stop these weapons falling into the hands of killers and human rights abusers.
- an estimated 300,000 children are working as soldiers in conflicts around the world.
- the USA, UK, France, Russia, and China. Together, they are responsible for eighty eight per cent of reported conventional arms exports.
- From 1998 to 2001, the USA, the UK, and France earned more income from arms sales to developing countries than they gave in aid.
- Since 11 September 2001, some countries have relaxed controls in order to arm their new-found allies against terrorism. For example, the US government massively increased its military aid to dozens of armed forces including some which even their own State Department identified as having a ‘poor’ human rights record or worse. In the UK, British arms cleared for export to Indonesia rose from £2 million in 2000 to more than £40 million in 2002, a twenty-fold increase, despite the gross pattern of human rights violations committed by the Indonesian armed forces
- “We can’t have it both ways. We can’t be both the world’s leading champion of peace and the world’s leading supplier of arms.” **Former US President Jimmy Carter**, presidential campaign, 1976
- Development is undermined without peace and personal security. It is also impossible without investment in social services and the freedom to participate in civil society. How are countries supposed to develop when one third spend more on the military than they do on health care services?
- Defence spending diverts vital resources away from health and education budgets. Roughly US\$22 billion a year is spent on arms by countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America – half of which would enable those countries to put every child in primary school.
- In 1999, South Africa spent US\$6 billion on arms including submarines, aircraft, helicopters and frigates. US\$6 billion that could have paid to treat all of South Africa’s five million AIDS sufferers for two years.
- By 2020, the number of deaths and injuries from war and violence will overtake the numbers of deaths caused by killer diseases such as malaria and measles.
- Without strict control of arms exports and measures to protect people from their misuse, countless others will continue to suffer the catastrophic consequences of the arms trade. Readily available weapons will intensify and prolong wars. More people will be terrorised and forced from their homes. Families will be prevented from growing food to feed themselves or earning enough money to send their kids to school. Human rights abuses will continue. People will be trapped in poverty.

Democracy ↑

- Elections in South Africa <http://www.guardian.co.uk/gall/0,8542,1191731,00.html>
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Misc. Quotes ↑

- The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." *Frederick Buechner, Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*
- "...poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome by the actions of human beings." *Nelson Mandela*
- "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation". *Nelson Mandela*
- "Jaw Jaw, not war war". *Winston Churchill*