

The World Water Crisis

It certainly doesn't feel like it here in the United States, but millions of people around the world are facing a very serious problem: no clean water. With World Water Day coming up on March 22, I wanted to call your attention to this situation and let you know how you can help.

First, some facts: 1.1 billion people around the globe lack access to safe water supplies with 3.5 million people dying each year from water-related diseases. Consider this: an American taking a five-minute shower has just used more water than the typical FAMILY in a developing country slum would use in an entire day. Some 6,000 children die every day from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene—that's equivalent to 20 jumbo jets crashing every day. The facts go on and they are staggering. With less than one percent of the world's fresh water supply readily accessible for direct human use, water is truly a precious commodity.

The United Nations has designated March 22 each year as a day to "spotlight the global safe water and sanitation issue and the collective efforts underway to get solutions to those struggling and in need." How can you help? Log onto www.oneweekforwater.org where you can donate your voice by signing on as a supporter. You can also learn more about the water crisis and some of the solutions in place to alleviate this critical problem at www.water.org. I am sure there are links to donate as well.

I'll leave you with my favorite, mind-boggling statistic: The U.N. estimates that it would cost an additional \$30 billion to provide access to safe water for the entire planet. Sounds like a lot? Get this—that's only a third of what the world spends on bottled water in one year!! Let's make our voices heard in helping our nation, and nations around the world, move the water crisis up in our collective priority lists.

Sources: www.blueplanetnetwork.org; www.water.org; www.worldwatercouncil.org.

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