World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

Themes

Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. States are invited to devote the Day, as appropriate in the national context, to concrete activities such as the promotion of public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organisation of conferences, round tables, seminars and expositions related to the conservation and development of water resources.

In 2022, 2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water, including 703 million without a basic water service; 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion without basic sanitation services; and 2 billion lacked a basic handwashing facility, including 653 million with no handwashing facility at all.

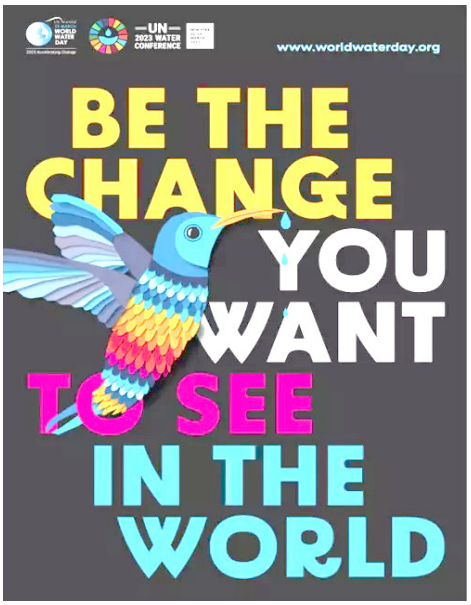
In 2023 the World Water Day theme was "Accelerating change", to accelerate the change required to solve the water and sanitation crises. The theme is meant to focus on the importance of appropriately using water in humans' daily needs.

to advocate: *sostenere*
broad: *ampio*
to lack: *mancare*
nevertheless: *ciò nonostante*

Water cooperation

Population growth, associated with changing consumption patterns, especially in cities, is driving an increase in water demand. With the world population expected to grow to 8 billion by 2025, water withdrawals should increase by 50% in developing countries and by 18% in developed countries.

Shared waters provide opportunities for cooperation across nations and support political dialogue on broader issues such as regional economic integration, environmental conservation and sustainable development. Cooperation mechanisms can vary in terms of decision-making structures, levels of participation, and rules and regulations, but the principle remains the same: when water resources are cooperatively shared and managed, peace, prosperity and sustainable development are more likely to be achieved. Cooperation can help overcome inequity and prevent conflicts and thus contribute to poverty eradication, socio-economic development and improve living conditions and educational chances, especially of women and children.



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1 Find in the text the corresponding English translations of these words.

1. Consapevolezza .....
2. Gestione .....
3. Eliminazione .....
4. Impianto .....
5. Condiviso .....
6. Servizi sanitari .....
7. Ingiustizia .....
8. Prelievo .....
9. Problematiche .....
10. Superare .....

2 Complete the sentences.

1. 2.2 billion people lacked .....
2. 3.5 billion people lacked .....
3. 2 billion people lacked .....
4. To meet 2030 targets, the pace of progress will have to .....
5. The world population is expected to .....
6. Water withdrawals could .....

3 Fill in the gaps with the words given below.

access • challenges • cooperation • efficiency • facilities • hygiene • industry • proportion • scarcity • security

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Access to safe water, sanitation and **1.** ..... is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Billions of people will lack **2.** ..... to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples. Demand for water is rising owing to rapid population growth, urbanisation, and increasing water needs from agriculture, **3.** ....., and energy sectors.

The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world's population is already experiencing severe water **4.** ..... at least one month a year. Water scarcity is projected to increase with the rise of global temperatures as a result of climate change.

Investments in infrastructure and sanitation **5.** ....., protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, and hygiene education are among the steps necessary to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, and improving water-use **6.** ..... is one key to reducing water stress.

However, there has been positive progress. Between 2015 and 2022, the **7.** ..... of the world's population with access to safely managed drinking water increased from 69% to 73%.

Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food **8.** ....., peace and human rights, ecosystems and education. Nevertheless, countries face growing **9.** ..... linked to water scarcity, water pollution, degraded water-related ecosystems, and **10.** ..... over transborder water basins.

Adapted from: *https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/*

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