

# Water Scarcity: The Eternal Leak

## What is Water Scarcity?

Water scarcity is when water is not available to others.

### Two types:

**Economic**—Water is available but cannot be accessed by the general population.

- Population cannot afford water
- controlled by the government
- Political and ethnic conflict
- Unequal distribution of resources

**Physical**—No water is available for use.

- Water is overused or over managed
- Arid areas with minimal rainfall
- Abundant source is used till dry



### Dry as a Bone

A draught is one of the main causes of physical water scarcity.

## How Has Water Impacted World History?

Water has always been the backbone for the formation of civilizations, spread of ideas, and conflicts with others.



### Water Underground

Roman aqueducts ran underneath the cities like modern day plumbing.

- Jordan River Diversion led to a war in Israel in 1967

- Mesopotamia: world's first civilization was formed near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- Romans invented aqueducts which were the first systems of indoor plumbing
- Water has been used for trade routes since medieval eras

## Water Scarcity in South Africa

South Africa's current water crisis has a solution but it can not be afforded by the people. More people are moving from rural areas to cities, causing the demand for water to increase. Water structures are collapsing and new ones cannot be repaired due to the costs to repair them.

This has caused five million people to be without water and many lack basic sanitation. The climate change has caused less frequent rainfall and 35% of the cities water is stolen or distributed illegally.



### African Water Hole

People in South Africa dig ditches to retrieve the groundwater below.

## Water in the Future

The current water crisis could be solved with the cooperation of everyone, otherwise the world will have to live without water.

- By 2025, an estimated 2.7 billion people will live without water
- 88% of salt water, 2% frozen water, 10% left for human use
- Increased bottling of water is making water more expensive and reducing the amount of affordable water available for use.
- Well projects provide fresh water for a community for a lifetime
- Solar energy is being used to provide pumped water to private homes

### Polluted Waters

Increasing pollution of water is making more water unusable by humans.

