



5 things to know about water and cities





1

The rapid urbanization could make global water problems much worse

By 2050, it is expected that **80% of the global population** will live in cities.

How cities manage water will have an enormous impact on the entire water cycle.





2

Risks include disasters, water shortages and pollution

Many of these risks can be tackled by **better management** of water.





3

By 2030, four out of five mega cities will be in low-income countries

The fastest urbanization takes place in parts of Africa and Asia that are already **hard hit by the escalating climate crises**, which forces people to migrate to cities.

Greater investments in rural areas and small scale farming would **reduce pressure on cities.**



Clean water and safe sanitation must be top priorities

4



Many mega cities are surrounded by **informal settlements**, prone to flooding and short on WASH services.

Improving access to water would allow people societies to be **more resilient** to climate impacts.





5

Water-wise cities can reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Cities must protect or restore forests, wetlands.

Healthy ecosystems can both **buffer against extreme weather and sequester greenhouse gases.**





Learn more

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