
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION – Mia von Lewinski

The goal for 2030 is that everybody has universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water. Every person should have access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene as well. It is aimed to end open defecation and to pay special attention to the needs of women, girls, and those in vulnerable situations. The quality of water should also be improved by then as well as the water-usage efficiency across all sectors. Additional important aims are minimizing the release of pollutants, significantly reducing untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing water recycling. Measures should be implemented throughout different boundaries if necessary to help reducing water scarcity everywhere. Already today, protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems such as mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes should be fulfilled.

Progress:

Billions of people are still lacking access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene despite improvement in the provision of these basic services. In many parts of the world, water scarcity is a growing problem as conflicts and climate change are exacerbating the issue.

Another problem is that one in five river basins have experienced high fluctuations in (surface) water during the last 5 years.

Although there has been some progress, 2.2 billion people still lacked safely managed drinking water services, 3.4 billion lacked safely managed sanitation services, and 1.9 billion lacked basic hygiene services in 2022.

Many countries are also still lacking effective frameworks for sustainable water management. The percentage of countries with high levels of participation from communities remains consistently low (under 40%). Despite this, progress has been made globally since 2015 and the rate of implementation needs to double to achieve the target.

Project:

Because we don't have a big problem with clean water and sanitation in Austria, my project aims to help in another country. Since there is even a project organized in Graz, it would be great to support this organization. The project is called "Tihamwe" and until now it has built a daycare center for children in the village Muheza in Tanzania. The region is suffering severely from water scarcity. Because of Tihamwe, there are now newly built sanitary facilities and just recently, drilling for water has been done because public water supply does not work anymore. More work has to be done to complete the water infrastructure. To help the organization to get more money, it is possible to do fundraising at the school's summer party. A few people could open a stall where they sell some cake and cookies or other foods to collect money. In addition, you could also open a charity run at school.
