COMPASSION AND THE SDGS

FACE FOCUS AREA FOR COMPASSION & ETHICS | A program of the TASK FORCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH | THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH | TEMPLETON WORLD CHARITY FOUNDATION

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is foundational to human and planetary health and well-being. But meeting targets requires a four-fold increase in the pace of progress.

NOTICING

Over the past 300 years, over 85% of the planet's wetlands have been lost due to population growth and climate change. Globally, women and girls spend 200 million hours every day collecting water, exposing them to risks of violence and physical injury. Moreover, 1 in 10 people lack access to safe drinking water and 1 in 4 lack access to improved sanitation facilities, resulting in nearly 1 million deaths per year.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the water crisis. Access to safe water and sanitation at home increases school attendance among girls and gives women time to pursue work that can help generate additional family income that breaks cycles of poverty. Ensuring freshwater supplies are managed equitably, sustainably, and peacefully, particularly amidst climate change, is critical to achieving the SDGs for safe water access, gender equality, health, education, poverty, and more. A compassionate lens helps us to better understand the multidimensional suffering caused by water scarcity, as well as the social and psychological impacts of poor water quality and lack of access to improved sanitation.

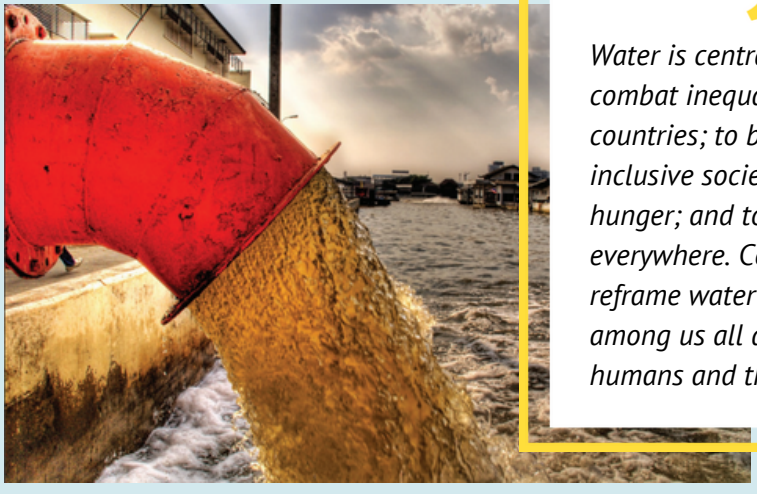
TAKING ACTION

Improving the management of our water resources to meet domestic, industrial, agricultural, and environmental needs must double to meet targets. Water cooperation agreements between countries are especially important for managing transboundary waters. Empowering women is critical to solving the water crisis. Giving micro-loans to poor families to put a tap or toilet in their homes is a compassionate act that turns suffering into potential.

EVERY **2 MINS** A CHILD DIES FROM A WATER-RELATED DISEASE

1 IN 4 BILLION LACK ACCESS TO A TOILET

80% OF THE WORLD'S WASTEWATER IS NOT TREATED BEFORE RE-ENTERING THE ENVIRONMENT



Water is central to the 2030 Agenda to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies; to end poverty and hunger; and to protect human rights everywhere. Compassion helps us to reframe water as the connective element among us all as humans and between humans and the earth.