essentialneed

World Water Map for Safe Drinking

Tracking UN SDG 6.1 Progress

Basic Access | Safely Managed Drinking Water

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What is the World Water Map?

- Despite decades of global development efforts, more than **2 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water.**
- **Progress remains uneven,** and rapid population growth continues to place pressure on national systems.
- **The World Water Map makes this gap visible country by country linking water access** to demographic change and human development outcomes.

The platform tracks:

- UN Sustainable Development Goal 6.1
- Basic Access to drinking water
- Safely Managed drinking water services
- Population trends
- Human Development Index (HDI)

It supports the achievement of:

SDG Target 6.1

"By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all."

Who Is This For?

Who Uses the World Water Map?

Educators

Systems analysis and classroom engagement

Policymakers

Data-informed prioritization

Development agencies & donors

Impact targeting

Researchers

Longitudinal trend analysis

Journalists

Cross-country comparison

The platform transforms complex datasets into accessible, decision-ready insight.

Understanding UN SDG 6.1 Indicators

The platform allows users to toggle between two UN indicators:

Basic Access

- Water that can be reached within a 30-minute round trip from an improved source.
- Access to water does not always guarantee safety or reliability.

Safely Managed Drinking Water Services

Water that:

- Is located on premises
- Is available when needed
- Is free from contamination

Users can switch between these two indicators using the UN Target toggle in the right navigation panel.

Data Sources

The World Water Map integrates internationally recognized datasets:

Drinking water data (Basic Access & Safely Managed)

Source: WHO / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)

→ World Health Organization, unicef

Human Development Index (HDI)

Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

→ UNDP

Population data

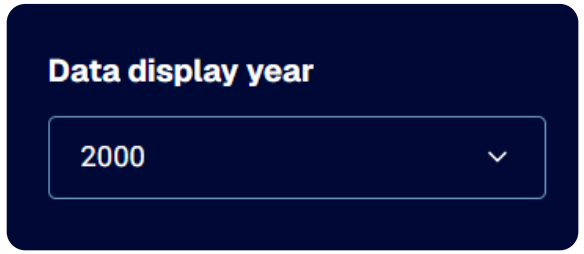
Source: WHO / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)

→ World Health Organization, unicef

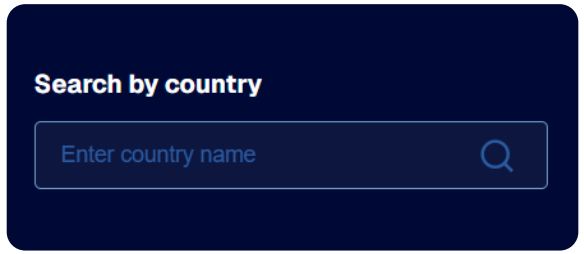
All data is harmonized to ensure consistency and comparability across countries.

Right Navigation Panel

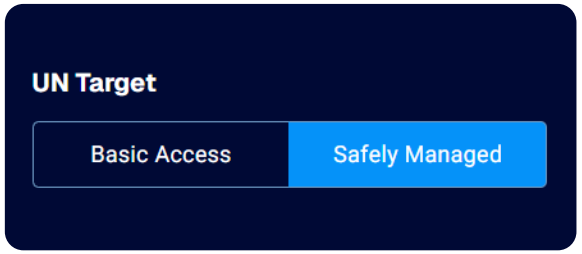
The right-hand panel allows you to:



01
Select Data Display Year

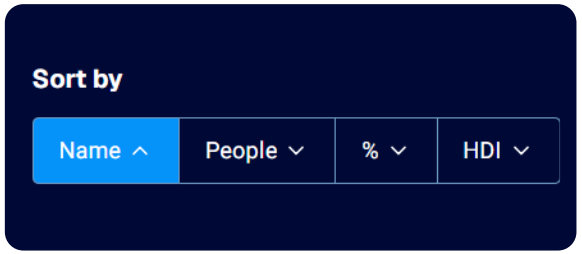


02
Search for a country



03
Choose UN Target

- Basic Access
- Safely Managed



04
Sort countries by

- Name
- People
- %
- HDI

Changing the UN Target or year will automatically update:

- Globe visualization
- Country statistics
- Graphs and analysis

Step 01

Select a Country

Click on any country on the globe **OR** Search for a country using the search bar.

A country information popup will appear showing:

- Total population
- People needing basic access
  (or safely managed access depending on selection)
- Percentage of affected population

Click "Track Progress" to view detailed analysis.

Step 02

Country Overview

The country overview displays:

- Total population
- Number of people with access
- Number of people without access
- Percentage values

The data reflects the selected UN Target (Basic Access or Safely Managed).

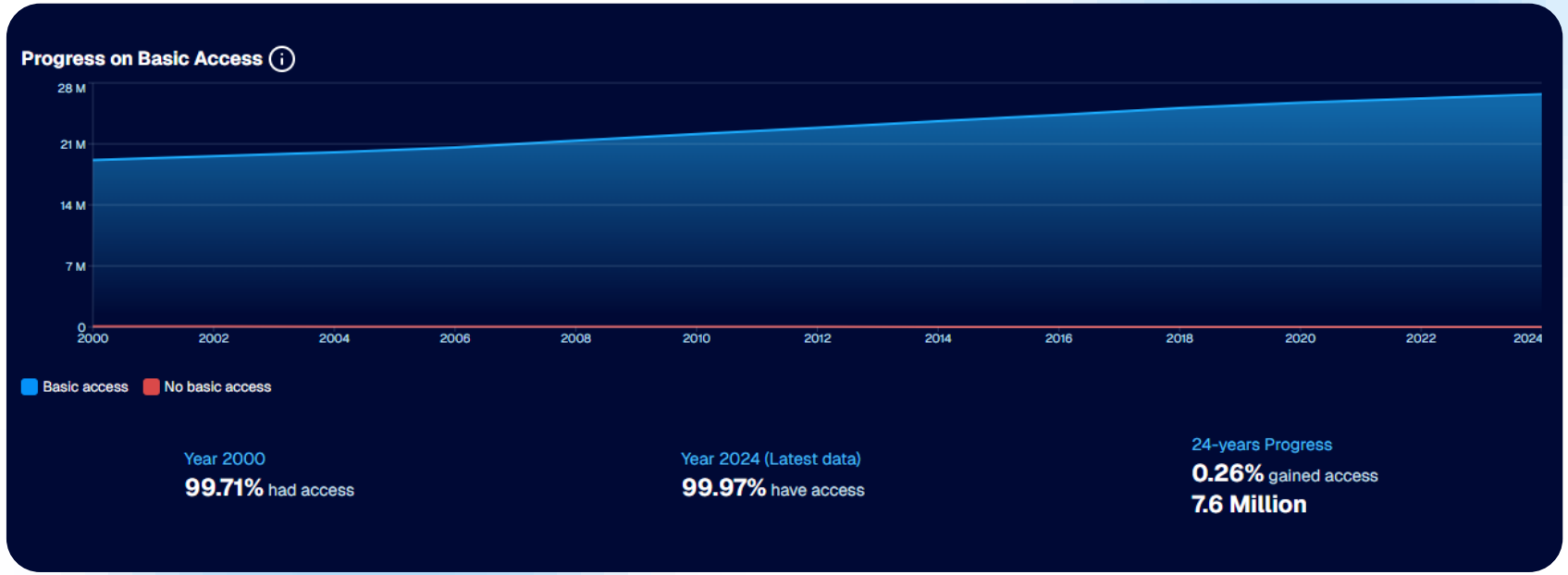
Step 03

Progress Over Time

The progress graph shows:

- Access trend from 2000 to latest available year
- Change in percentage over time
- Improvements or declines

The graph reveals long-term national trajectories under the selected SDG 6.1 indicator.



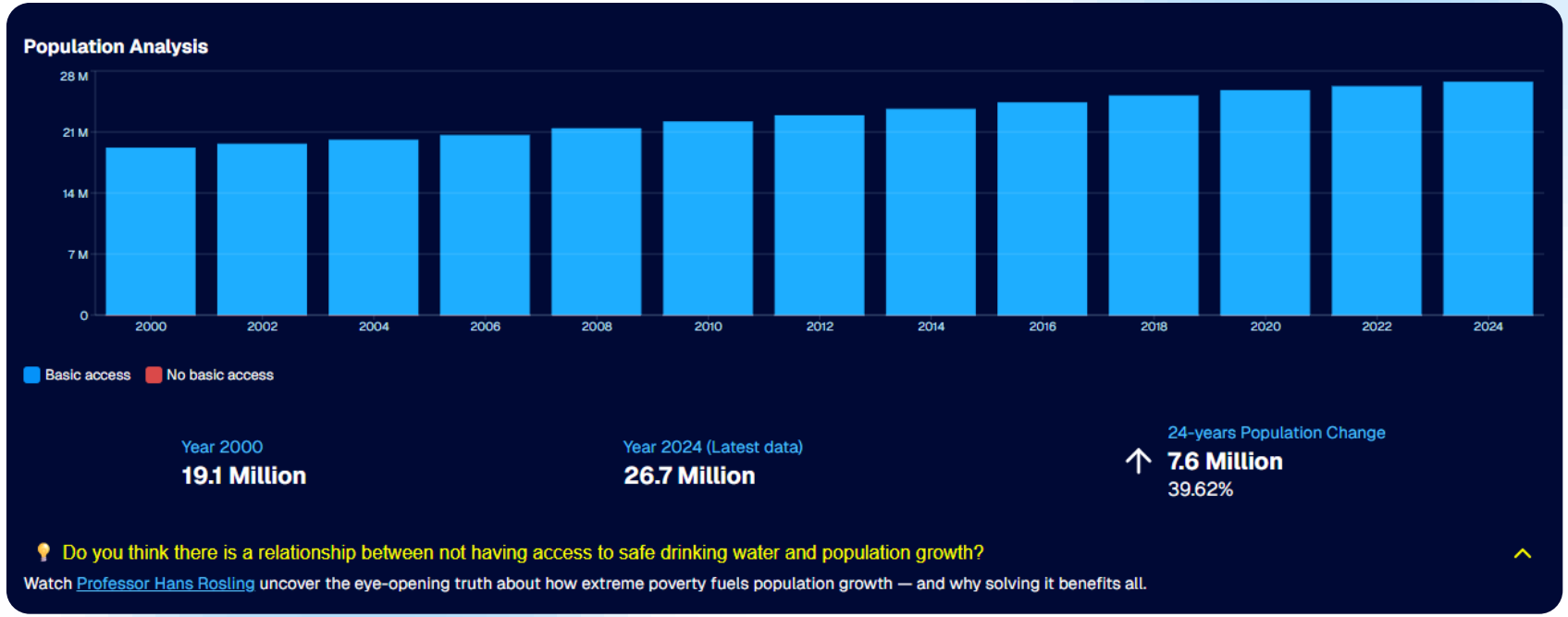
Step 04

Population Analysis

This section compares:

- Population growth over time
- Number of people with access
- Number of people without access

This comparison evaluates whether service expansion is outpacing demographic growth.



Step 05

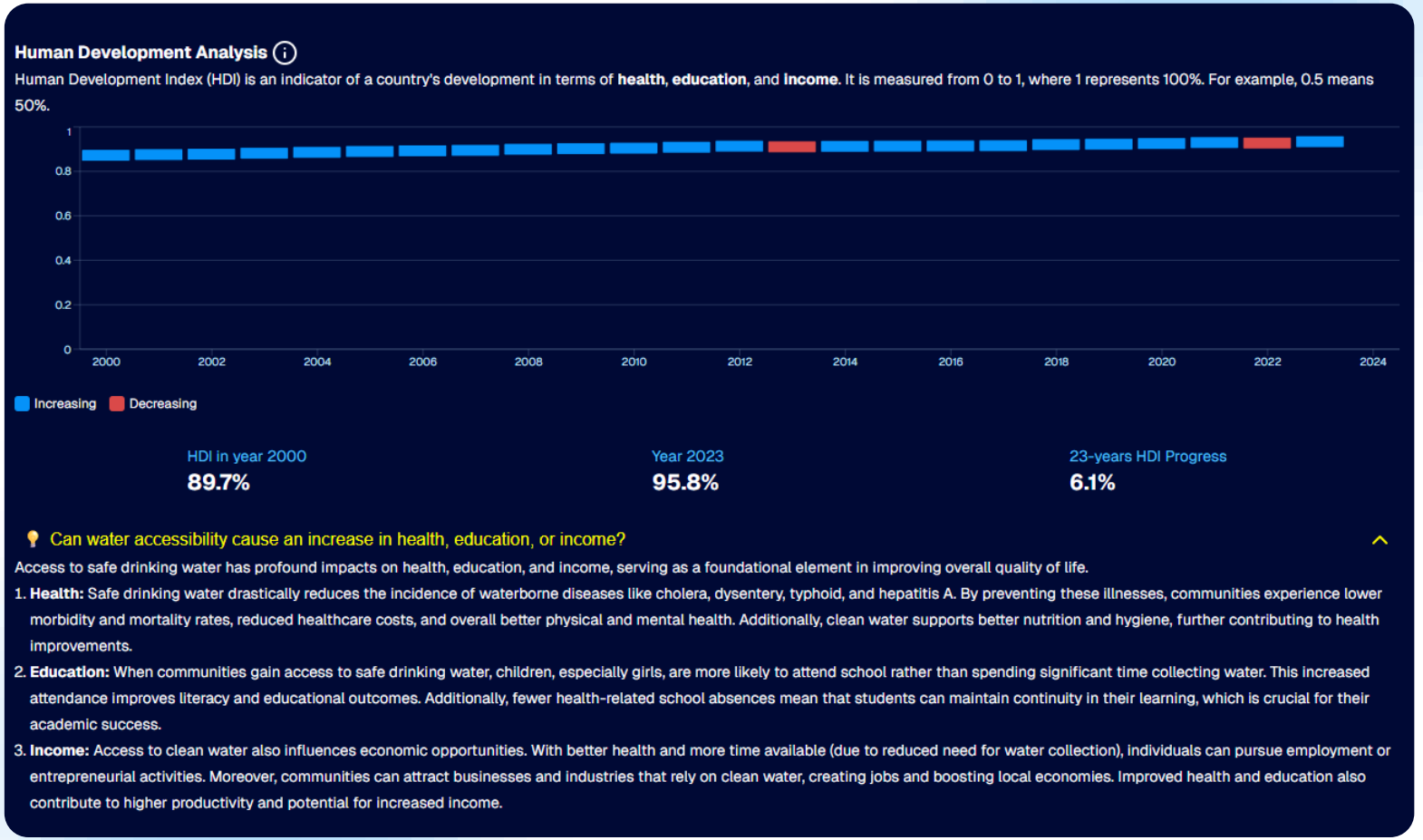
Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI graph illustrates development trends across:

- Health
- Education
- Income

The comparison enables assessment of the relationship between water access expansion and broader human development outcomes.

This integrated view strengthens evidence-based development planning.



Interpreting the Legend

Globe color indicators represent:

- Need basic access / lack safely managed services
- ≥99% access
- Data unavailable

The legend updates dynamically based on selected UN Target.

Countries approaching universal coverage may still experience subnational disparities, infrastructure fragility, or service quality challenges.

Impact on Health

Improving access to drinking water:

Reduces waterborne diseases

Improves maternal and child health

Enhances nutrition

Strengthens immune systems

Safe water forms the foundation of public health.

Impact on Education

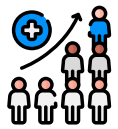
Access to safe water:

- Reduces school absenteeism
- Improves learning environments
- Supports hygiene facilities
- Empowers girls through reduced water collection burden

Water access directly influences educational outcomes.

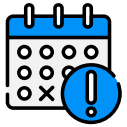
Why This Matters Now

Climate variability is increasing water stress globally



Urban population growth is accelerating infrastructure demand

Fragile and **low-income states** face widening access gaps



The 2030 SDG deadline is approaching

Data-driven decision-making is essential to closing the global water access gap.

Conclusion

01. Track SDG 6.1 progress globally
02. Compare Basic Access and Safely Managed indicators
03. Analyze trends over time
04. Understand the link between water, development, and population

By integrating water access indicators, demographic trends, and human development metrics, the platform supports evidence-based decision-making toward achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water.