

**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2003 5:11 PM  
**Subject:** DYING FOR WATER

*Hi Bergis;*

*Thank you for forwarding the article. While it sounds interesting, it is about as old and moldy as it comes. The UN and other watchdogs seem to "feel good" about citing statistics i.e. how many die from bad water..."and something needs to be done". The speech is old, the statistics never change, because nothing is getting done in those countries. And while the third world countries have the most deplorable waters in the world, first world countries' water quality is sliding towards third world levels vs. showing signs of improvement.*

*Aquathin and its Authorized Dealers in third world regions have made presentations to "deaf ears and blind eyes" of government authorities demonstrating central type water treatment sites serving 10+ families...AquaShields with hand pumps, etc. Graft, corruption, greed, simple do not care, all these attitudes stand in the way of improving the quality of life in third world countries. We have provided filtration systems to missionaries with good hearts and good intentions who purchase through their contributions received...but the overall effect is like placing a bandaid on a grey whale.*

*For now, we can look upon what we have accomplished in the newer world...and it is alot. Yet, we have much to do....our careers and future are probably the most solid of all in history. The only thing that could ever harm it, is if someone invented a substitute for water !*

*Thanks again and warmest regards,  
Alfie*

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### **'Dying for Water,' World Marks Environment Day**

Thu Jun 5, 9:43 AM ET



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*By Cynthia Johnston*

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Seeking to ease a water crisis threatening a third of humanity, the United Nations ([news - v](#)) marked world environment day on Thursday with calls for governments to double aid to poor countries and for ord to fix leaky taps.



[Reuters Photo](#)

Under the slogan "Water -- two billion people are dying for it!," projects ranged from draining mosquito-infested pools in Kenya to a tasting in Brussels of tap water from around Europe.

"Water-related diseases kill a child every eight seconds," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan ([news - web sites](#)) said in a message on the anniversary of a landmark environmental conference in Stockholm on June 5, 1972.

"One person in six lives without regular access to safe drinking water. Over twice that number lack access to adequate sanitation," he said.



[AP Photo](#)

Bangladesh launched a tree-planting drive meant to turn the nation into a "garden of eden" by 2015. In Egypt, politicians and celebrities helped sweep the streets and planted 600 trees in Cairo's oldest and poorest neighborhoods.

The United Nations says the world must do far more to meet goals of halving the proportion of people who lack safe drinking water and sanitation by the year 2015, part of an overall effort to end global poverty.

 [Slideshow: World Environment Day](#)

Environment Program.

"If we are to meet the commitments...the world will have to spend up to \$180 billion annually, more than double what is being spent today," said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the U.N.

He told a news conference in Beirut, hosting the annual event, that big investments were needed in everything from water treatment to irrigation.

#### PEOPLE CAN DO THEIR BIT

And the United Nations says ordinary citizens can do their bit with simple measures like plugging leaks at home, conserving rainwater, turning off the tap when brushing their teeth or taking a short shower instead of a bath.

In China, the world's most populous country, the government said it planned to invest more than \$30 billion over the next five years to fight water pollution and help relieve shortages.

But environmentalists reiterated concern over China's Three Gorges Dam -- the world's largest hydroelectric project -- as China began filling on Sunday.

The WWF environmental group said 1,700 dams planned around the world, like the Three Gorges, would suck rivers dry.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri said the budget of the U.S.-led war on Iraq ([news - web sites](#)) exceeded the amount needed to alleviate the plight of people suffering from water shortages.

In Moscow, parliamentarians wrangled about delays in the country's planned ratification of the U.N.'s Kyoto protocol ([news - web sites](#)) meant to rein in emissions of gases blamed for global warming ([news - web sites](#)). Under a complex voting system, Kyoto's fate hangs on Russia.

Some accused President Vladimir Putin ([news - web sites](#)) of dragging his feet but others said issues like a crumbling energy industry were more urgent than the long-term threat of climate change that may cause more severe storms, floods and droughts.

"When your house is on fire, you don't worry about washing the dishes," Robert Nigmatulin, chairman of the ecology committee of Russia's lower house of parliament, told Reuters.

In Rome, Jacques Diouf, director-general of the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organization, said better water management would lead to "fewer disasters like the current food crisis in southern Africa and the Horn of Africa."

The United Nations says water is the world's most precious resource. European and U.S. space probes are heading to Mars this year to seek evidence of water -- a sign life might have existed on the red planet.