

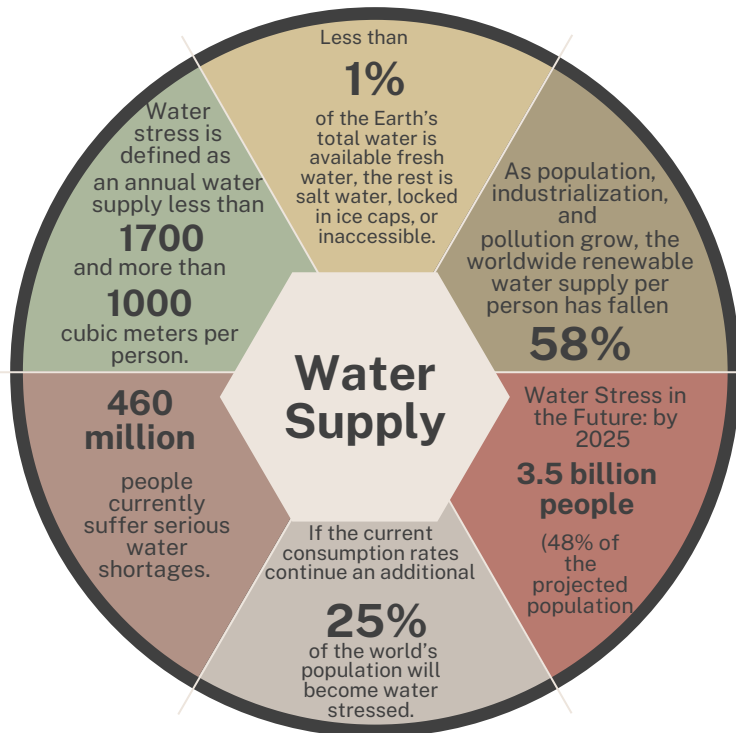
# RIGHT TO WATER

The Key to Health, Hygiene, and Human Dignity



## WATER! WHY IS IT A HUMAN RIGHT?

The world is facing a catastrophic crisis: over a billion people are denied access to the most fundamental element of life - clean water. This is not just a need, but a basic human right, recognized by international law and Zimbabwe's national constitution. Yet, despite this recognition, millions continue to suffer and die from water-borne diseases and malnutrition. The scarcity of water not only threatens human life but also fuels internal conflict, particularly in rural areas and high-density suburbs. It's imperative that we acknowledge water as a human right and develop robust mechanisms to ensure its availability, or risk perpetuating a cycle of suffering, inequality, and instability.



The percentage of Water Loss through Distribution System in Large Cities by Country: Africa – 39%

## ACCESS AND COVERAGE

Access and coverage

- Population Without Access to Adequate Water Supply: 1.1 billion people (one-sixth of world population)
- Population Without Access to Adequate Sanitation Facility: 2.4 billion
- To reach Universal Coverage by 2025, 3 billion people will need to be served with water supply

## RIGHT TO WATER IN ZIMBABWE

### 77 Right to food and water

Every person has the right to— (a) safe, clean and potable water; and (b) sufficient food; and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

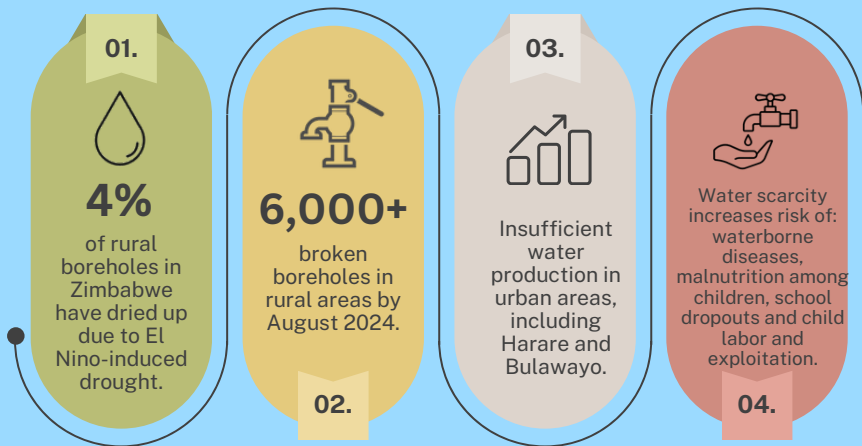
The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights supports the human right to water. Furthermore, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the legally binding documents which support the Universal Declaration, support the human right to water and national governments' obligation to fulfill this right. The UN recommends that investments in water infrastructure and sanitation facilities; protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems; and hygiene education are among the steps necessary to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.



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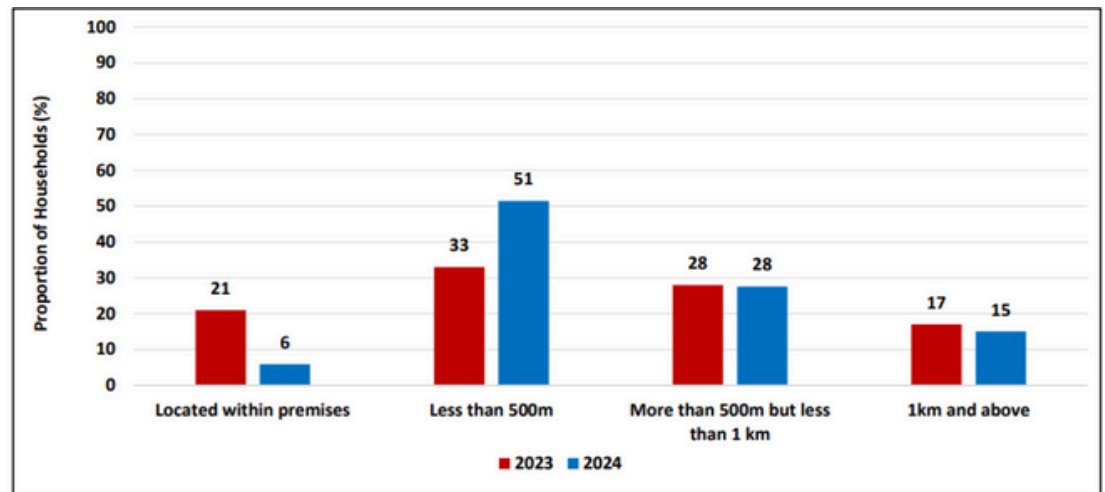
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## ACCESS TO WATER IN ZIMBABWE



Access to safe water remains a challenge for communities in Zimbabwe. About half of the households in rural areas have access to safe water less than 500 meters from home, while communities in urban areas suffer from lack of access to clean water due to poor service delivery. The severity of the water crisis in Zimbabwe is exacerbated by the El-Nino-induced drought hence the need for sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to protect children's rights and build community resilience.

The proportion of households with their water source located within premises decreased from 21% in 2023 to 6% in 2024.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

## CONCLUSION

The Zimbabwe Peace Project is highly concerned about the country's water situation spiraling out of control! ZPP urges the state to take immediate action and invest in Zimbabwe's crumbling water infrastructure. Time is running out! The ZPP demands that the government and politicians prioritise the construction of new water sites, ensuring that citizens have access to this basic human right. The Zimbabwe Peace Project is calling on the state to extend a lifeline to ALL local authorities, regardless of size or location, that are struggling to provide safe and reliable water to their communities. Many rural and smaller local authorities are on the brink of collapse, unable to collect revenue or maintain their water infrastructure.

No community should be left behind! The clock is ticking. Will the government act before it's too late?

