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How do you get your drinking water? Why do we have so much water in Africa and yet so little clean enough to drink?

Africa boasts numerous lakes and rivers and yet the World Health Organisation (WHO) says that over 40% of sub-Saharan Africa's population still do not have access to safe water.



And thousands of children die every day as a result.

Is your water safe to drink? How easy is it to get? What is the future of Africa's water? Is it too precious to privatise, or is that the only way to ensure that people have enough to drink and cook with?

This debate has now closed. Thank you for your comments.

Your comments:

This whole mess of lack of clean drinking water in Africa has been caused by two things: corruption and inefficiency. Money that would have been used for water projects is often diverted to the overseas accounts of greedy leaders. Look at Lagos, Nigeria for example; all the city water systems were built in the 1970s and are all broken, yet, year after year the government continues to set aside money for repairs but the funny thing is, nothing gets done and it's the same story every

Lyke Emina, USA

“Year after year the government continues to set aside money for repairs but nothing gets done”

Lyke Emina, USA

To understand the problem of insufficient supply of drinking water in Africa, one needs to analyse the complex web of problems caused by inadequate management policies. In my village, in southern Nigeria for instance, at the moment, the `best` source of drinking water - apart from rain water- is from bore holes. But even this water is not drinkable without proper treatment.

Aleke Patrick, Nigeria/Brazil

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