

# WATER



## The essence of life

The human body is 70% water and the same goes for most other living things. We all depend on it and can't do anything without it. In fact the evolution, the very existence, of life on earth, depended on the presence of water. All life depends on it.

Internationally, water is the most precious resource we have. We live on a blue planet, with most of the surface covered by seawater, but it is all salty and cannot be drunk. Only 2.5% of the world's water is fresh, and of that, 99% is frozen in glaciers and polar ice or hidden deep underground, 6.5 billion people share the remainder. Many experts believe that wars will be fought over water in the coming decades. Keeping the water we have clean, and using it wisely is very important.

## did you know?

In 2020 Ethiopia completed a dam that will hold back 74 billion m<sup>3</sup> of Nile river water. Political disputes, controversy and negotiations have continued for a decade.

**"ACCESS TO WATER IS A  
FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN NEED  
AND THEREFORE A BASIC  
HUMAN RIGHT"**

(Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN, 1997-2006)

## fun facts

Even different countries have to share water. In Egypt, 90% of freshwater used comes from the Nile. Yet, the Nile is shared between the 10 nations along its banks.

