



Save the Children

WORLD WATER WEEK

Breaking News Lesson

Upper Primary and Intermediate

Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to the best possible health. This includes access to clean water. World Water Day is an annual UN observance day that highlights the importance of freshwater. This year's theme is valuing water.

In this lesson, children will deconstruct a current news story from World Water Week. It will integrate Mathematics and Statistics, English and Social Sciences learning areas to break the news into two different types on data and information.

Objective: Students will learn about the impact that **water** shortages have on children in another country. They will differentiate between different types of information in a news article.

Curriculum Links: Mathematics and Statistics, English, Rights and responsibilities, management of resources (Health and Social sciences).

LEARNER SUPPORT

We have included two versions of the article, page 2 is for older students or stronger readers, page 3 is for younger students or children who need extra support.

There is a vocabulary support exercise for your foundation and level 1-4 bilingual students.

KAI AKO

Discuss



What are the ways that we use water in our community?

Do we ever have our water use restricted and why?

Access to water is a **right**. Why is it so important that this is a fundamental right?

Do you think that all children in the world have **equal** access to water? Why do you think this is?

People **value** water for different reasons. What are some of the things that you value about water?

Severe water shortages in Somalia leave 70% of families without safe drinking water

MOGADISHU, 22 MARCH 2021



Access to clean water is a **right** for all children. Water sources in Somalia are drying up at a rapid rate as a looming drought intensifies, leaving 70% of families across the country without access to safe drinking water. Thousands of children are now reliant on emergency water trucking and unprotected wells, or are forced to leave their homes, according to a new assessment by Save the Children.

The assessment, which covered 632 households, shows reduced rainfall and severe water shortages are also killing livestock, causing crop failures and diminishing household incomes, leaving children with fewer meals per day and less nutritious food.

More than half the families surveyed did not have enough food to eat and 84% of respondents said they were resorting to harmful ways to cope with the crisis, such as depleting their livestock reserves to buy food and reducing the number of meals they have per day. The loss of livestock also means children have less access to milk and this further exposes them to the risk of malnutrition.

Shucayb, 12, says:

"The drought has made it difficult for the community. We only have a little bit of water left and if that dries up, then the community will have to move to another place where there is water. I'd be sad if this happens because the school would close, and I'd have no choice but to go with my family."

Without immediate humanitarian assistance, the crisis is likely to peak in June, with the number of people in urgent need of support reaching 5.9 million - an increase of 700,000 people compared to 2020, or a third of the population.



As the negative impacts of climate change intensify, the frequency and severity of extreme weather events in Somalia is increasing. Conflict and the impacts of COVID-19 are also taking a huge toll and pushing families to breaking point.

Mohamud Mohamed Hassan, Country Director for Save the Children in Somalia, said:

"Children are bearing the brunt of a growing climate crisis in Somalia. In the communities where we work, Save the Children is seeing wells drying up, families rationing their water, crops and pastures dying and people moving away from their communities in search of water and food for their livestock. In some locations, the price of water has skyrocketed. Those who cannot afford to pay for water are forced to use unsafe water sources, putting children at risk of deadly diseases such as cholera."

"Without enough food and the right nutrition, children are becoming malnourished. Children who are displaced may face violence, become separated from their families to the limit and they need urgent support to help them survive"

Water shortages in Somalia leave 70% of families without safe drinking water

MOGADISHU, 22 MARCH 2021



Access to clean water is a **right** for all children. Water sources in Somalia are drying up because of drought. 70% of families do not have safe drinking water.

Reduced rain means that farm animals and crops are dying, leaving children with fewer meals per day and less nutritious food.

More than half of families do not have enough food to eat. People are selling their farm animals to buy food. This means that children have less milk and a greater risk of malnutrition.

Shucayb, 12, says:

"We only have a little bit of water left and if that dries up, then the community will have to move to another place where there is water. I'd be sad if this happens because the school would close, and I'd have no choice but to go with my family."

Without help, the number of people in need of support will reach 5.9 million - a third of the population of Somalia.



As climate change increases, water shortages are becoming more common. War and the COVID-19 are also taking a huge toll.

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"In the communities where we work, Save the Children is seeing wells drying up, families rationing their water, crops and pastures dying and people moving away from their communities in search of water and food for their livestock. In some locations, the price of water has skyrocketed. Those who cannot afford to pay water are forced to use unsafe water sources, putting children at risk of deadly diseases such as cholera."



We can tell a story using qualitative or quantitative data and information. Quantitative data is numbers. Qualitative is information, observations and experiences from a person. Using both types of information, numbers and words, we can tell a more complete story.

Quantitative Data

Read the news article. Find some pieces of data and information that uses **numbers** to help you learn about the situation. We've done an example for you.

- 632 households were surveyed
and half do not have food to eat.

Qualitative Data

Find some information about the drought that is qualitative. This is information learned from people's **experiences** and **observations**.

- Wells are drying up and livestock
are dying.

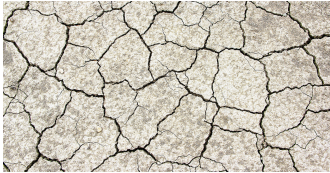



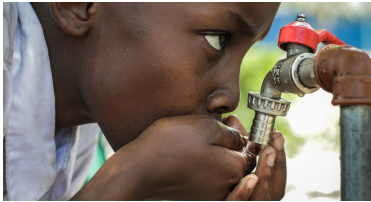
Access to clean water is a **right** for all children.

What are some of the ways that water shortages are impacting children in Somalia?

Bonus activity: Climate change is one factor that is contributing to droughts around the world. Do some research on ways that you can help climate change, and reduce drought. Draw a picture of some things that you can do on the back of this paper.

VOCABULARY SUPPORT

Ask your friends, or use the dictionary, to write or draw a definition (meaning) for these words.
Translate into your home language using your own knowledge or on Google Translate.

English	Definition	Home language
Drought 		
Crops 		
Livestock 		
Malnutrition 		
Water source 		
Right (e.g. children's rights)		

Save the Children, Aotearoa NZ Child, Youth and Schools Programme



Save the Children

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights. It is the most widely ratified treaty in the world. Aotearoa, New Zealand, has ratified this convention, which means that the government has an obligation to ensure these rights are fulfilled. Save the Children NZ's education programme aims to empower tamariki, kaiako and whānau to learn about, respect and uphold children's rights.

Share your work with us and stay up to date with our resources and events! education@scnz.org.nz

