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GLOBAL WATER CHALLENGE

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2023 UN WATER CONFERENCE

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EU-GLOBE

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THE GLOBAL WATER CHALLENGE

First Water Conference in 50 Years



"We are heading for massive collective failure"



Mariana Mazzucato



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



Johan Rockström



Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Too Much

IPCC: extreme floods and storms have forced over **20 million people** from their homes every year since 2008

Too Little

4 billion people experience water shortages for at least one month a year

Too Polluted

80% of the world's wastewater is dumped untreated into the environment, polluting rivers, lakes and oceans

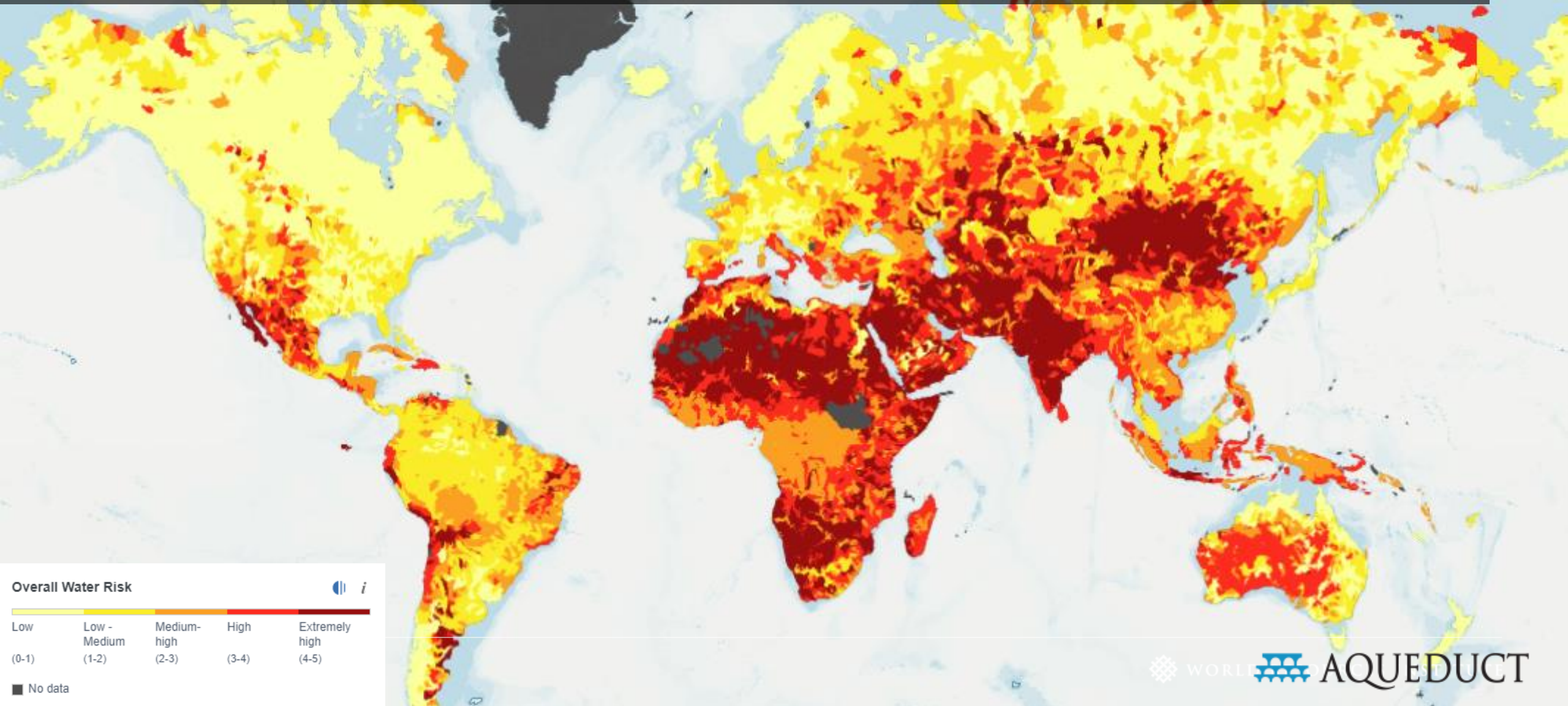
Over 2 million deaths occur each year from unsafe water-related diarrhea



Climate Change Is a Threat Multiplier

Floods decreased Pakistan's projected GDP growth from **5% to 2%**

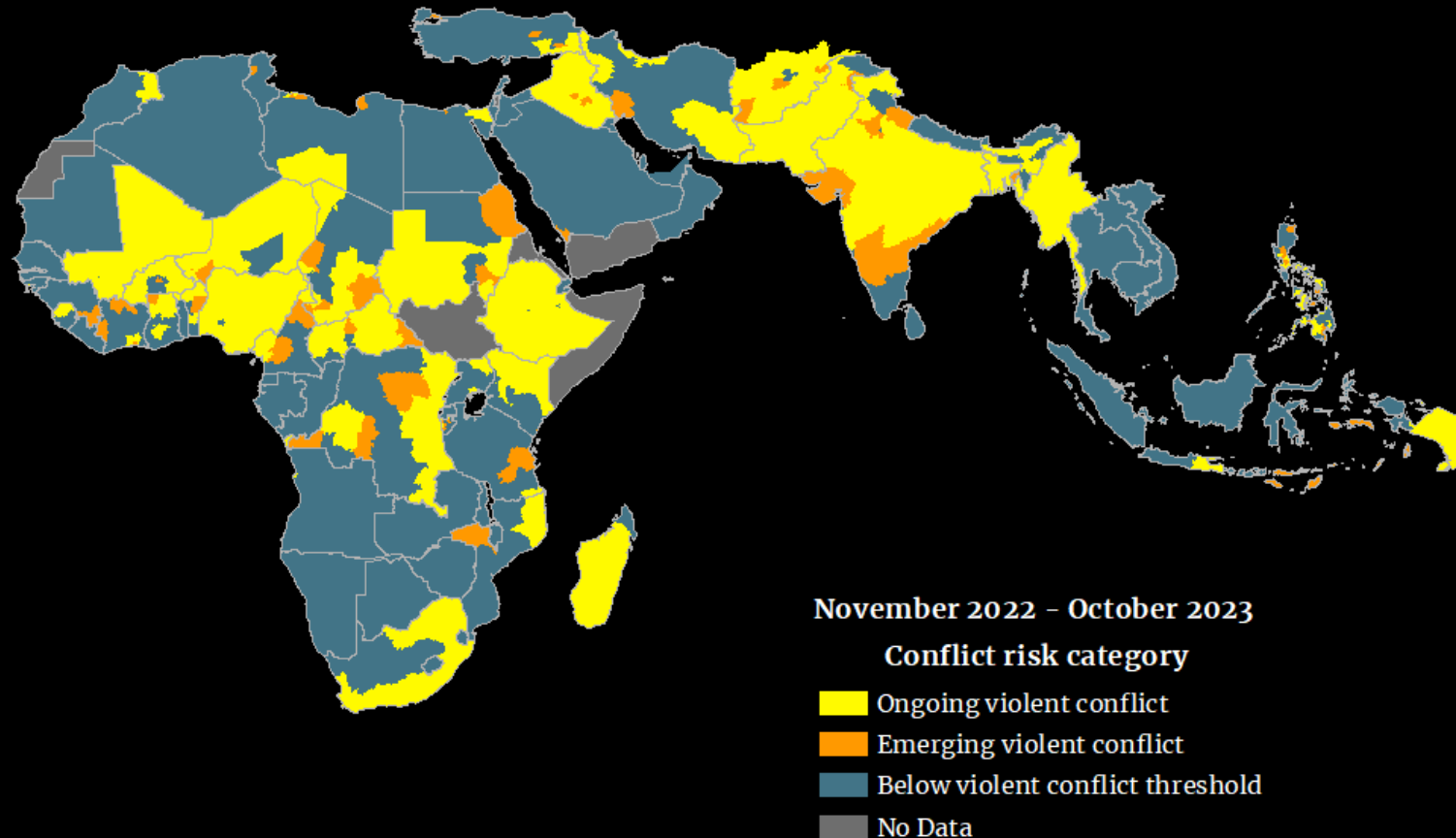
25% of the World's Population Experiences Extreme Water Stress



Conflict and Instability on the Rise



Water, Peace and Security Conflict Risk Forecast Map





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3 TRANSFORMATIONS NEEDED

Governance



"This conference must represent **a quantum leap** in the capacity of Member States and the international community to recognize and act upon the vital importance of water..."

*UN Secretary-General
António Guterres*

Economic

- Phase out **\$700 billion** in subsidies
- Accelerate disclosure of water footprints
- Value water within natural ecosystems

Investing just **1% global GDP** could provide water security by 2030

Finance

\$200–400 billion per year
additional investments needed
to achieve universal access to
clean water by 2030

Every **\$1 invested** in water
access and sanitation yields
\$6.80 in return

A Different Kind of Partnership That Scales Solutions

Leveraging **\$5 billion** to scale urban water resilience solutions to **100 African cities** by 2032

ACWA Platform and Fund

1. Mobilizing **city commitments** in support of locally led adaptation
2. Galvanizing **finance** for water resilience
3. Building a **knowledge coalition**



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KEY OUTCOMES

The Water Action Agenda



- Water and Health
- Water for Sustainable Development
- Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment
- Water for Cooperation
- Water Action Decade

The Water Action Agenda

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green mangrove forest. Two small, colorful boats are visible on the water, moving away from the viewer. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

670+ voluntary commitments
as of March 23, 2023

30% could be game-changers

Game-Changer: Niger River Basin Authority and German Government

\$21.9 million through 2029 to strengthen mitigation and adaptation in all 9 Niger River countries

Game-Changer: CDP Includes 1,800 Companies in Water Action Agenda

Invest in **2,700+** water-smart products and services by 2028

Combined value of **\$436 billion**

But Not Enough

Out of the 670+ commitments, only:

- **23%** had quantified targets
- **28%** had clear funding targets
- **23%** addressed climate change
- **13%** involved cooperation across borders and sectors



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SEA CHANGE NEEDED IN HOW WE VALUE, MANAGE AND USE WATER

Converting the Water Crisis to an Immense Global Opportunity





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