

Water futures

The future of water supply is unknown due to the unknown effects of climate change. Below are the likely impacts of climate change on water supply:

- Increased evaporation due to increased global temperatures
- Eustatic sea level rise means that salt water incursion of aquifers by the coast is more likely
- In the future there may be changes due to our current understanding of climate weather systems changing e.g. the monsoon rain season may change in the future
- Increased demand due to population growth, with supply reducing. This will limit irrigation and thus food production
- Increased precipitation due to the increased evaporation rate may mean that areas become wetter than they were before.

Scenarios for water supply by 2025

There are 3 different scenarios that could occur by 2025 which would change the future of water supply, these are:

Scenario	Changes to supply by 2025	Impacts
<i>Business as Usual</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing scarcity will reduce food production - Population growth and development will mean that consumption will rise by around 50% - Household use will increase by around 70% due to better standards of living and sanitation - The development of NICs and LEDCs will increase water usage through industry and manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The energy security of some countries will fall if they rely heavily of HEP - The limited irrigation will mean that food production falls. As a result the demand will be greater, increasing prices - Overabstraction will occur faster than the water can be recharged harming the environment and ecosystems
<i>Water Crisis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global consumption will increase due to population growth and development - Irrigation will increase significantly due to the need for more food - Industrial demand for water will increase by 33% due to the development of countries e.g. LEDCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The increased consumption will mean that overabstraction will increase and thus may cause ecosystem death - There may be increased migration and thus climate refugees - The price of water will rise due to increasing shortage meaning that some people won't be able to afford it
<i>Sustainable Water</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global water consumption in domestic and industrial use will fall significantly. - Development of crop technology will mean that grain won't need as much water - Agricultural and household water prices double in MEDCs and triple in LEDCs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater investment in crop technology to make crops more drought resistant - Lower amount of abstraction will may therefore mean that there are less conflicts over water - Increased number of laws which dictate the amount of water that can be used domestically and industrially

