



Water's Dilemma

Directions: Read the case-study passage carefully. Highlight any **problems** identified and underline any **proposed solutions** in the text. Use the questions to evaluate and discuss which solutions seem most effective and why. Support your answers with **evidence from the text** and **logical reasoning**.

Case Study: Global Water Scarcity

Across the globe, more than two billion people live without reliable access to safe drinking water. In sub-Saharan Africa, women and children often walk miles each day to fetch water from rivers or wells that may still be contaminated. In South Asia, rapid population growth and overuse of groundwater have left communities vulnerable to drought. Meanwhile, in the Middle East, climate change intensifies already dry conditions, straining political relationships between nations that share rivers.

Experts suggest a range of solutions. Some emphasize **infrastructure investments**, such as building desalination plants that turn seawater into drinkable water, though these require high energy and costs. Others promote **conservation strategies**, like reducing agricultural water waste through drip irrigation or recycling wastewater for safe reuse. A growing movement highlights **equity-based solutions**, insisting that governments must ensure poor communities have equal access to clean water, not just wealthy cities.

The global water crisis is not a problem with one answer. It demands a combination of technology, policy, and behavioral change; requiring both global cooperation and local innovation.

1. What are the **main problems** presented in the passage regarding global water scarcity?
2. Identify and explain **three different solutions** proposed in the passage.
3. Which solution seems most effective in the short term? Which seems more sustainable in the long term? Explain your reasoning.
4. How do issues of **equity** complicate water scarcity solutions?
5. Imagine you are a policy advisor: write a brief recommendation (3-5 sentences) combining at least two solutions from the passage into a practical action plan.