



## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS

- **More than 3 million** children under age 5 die each year from diseases because of environment-related causes and conditions.
- Each year, acute respiratory infections kill approximately **2 million** children under age 5. Worldwide, **60 percent** of acute respiratory infections are due to environmental conditions.
- Diarrheal diseases take the lives of **almost 2 million** children each year. **Eighty to 90 percent** of these diseases are related to environmental conditions, specifically contaminated water and inadequate sanitation.
- Nearly **1 million** people die each year because of malaria. Of these deaths, 80 percent are children under age 5 in sub-Saharan Africa. Up to **90 percent** of malaria cases are attributed to environmental factors.
- About **2.5 billion** people do not have access to adequate sanitation — roughly **two-fifths** of the world's population.
- About **1 million** children each year are diagnosed with intestinal worms causing malnutrition due to the lack of sanitation. Many cases go undiagnosed since mothers may think this normal and not seek medical attention.
- More than **6 million** people are blind from trachoma, a disease caused by the lack of water along with poor hygiene practices. Studies show that an adequate water supply could reduce trachoma infections by **25 percent**.
- More than **200 million** people live in coastal flood zones, which would be dramatically impacted by rising waters. While some 4 billion people — **60 percent** of the world's population — live within 65 miles of a coast.
- At least **1.6 billion** people globally do not have electricity in their homes, and approximately **54 percent** of people in developing countries lack access to modern forms of energy.
- The number of people living in countries where cultivated land is critically scarce is projected to increase from **448 million** in 2005 to **between 559 million and 706 million** in 2025.

*Sources:* [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org), [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org), [www.populationaction.org](http://www.populationaction.org), February 2009