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# **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN WATER RESEARCH**

**University of Saskatchewan  
November 26, 2020**



# OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S TALK

- \* **Part 1: Introduction To Key Concepts in EDI**
- \* **Part 2: EDI In 2020**
- \* **Part 3: Inclusive Leadership in Water Research**
- \* **Part 4: People and Water**
- \* **Part 5: Water Security and Intersectionality**
- \* **Conclusion and Questions**

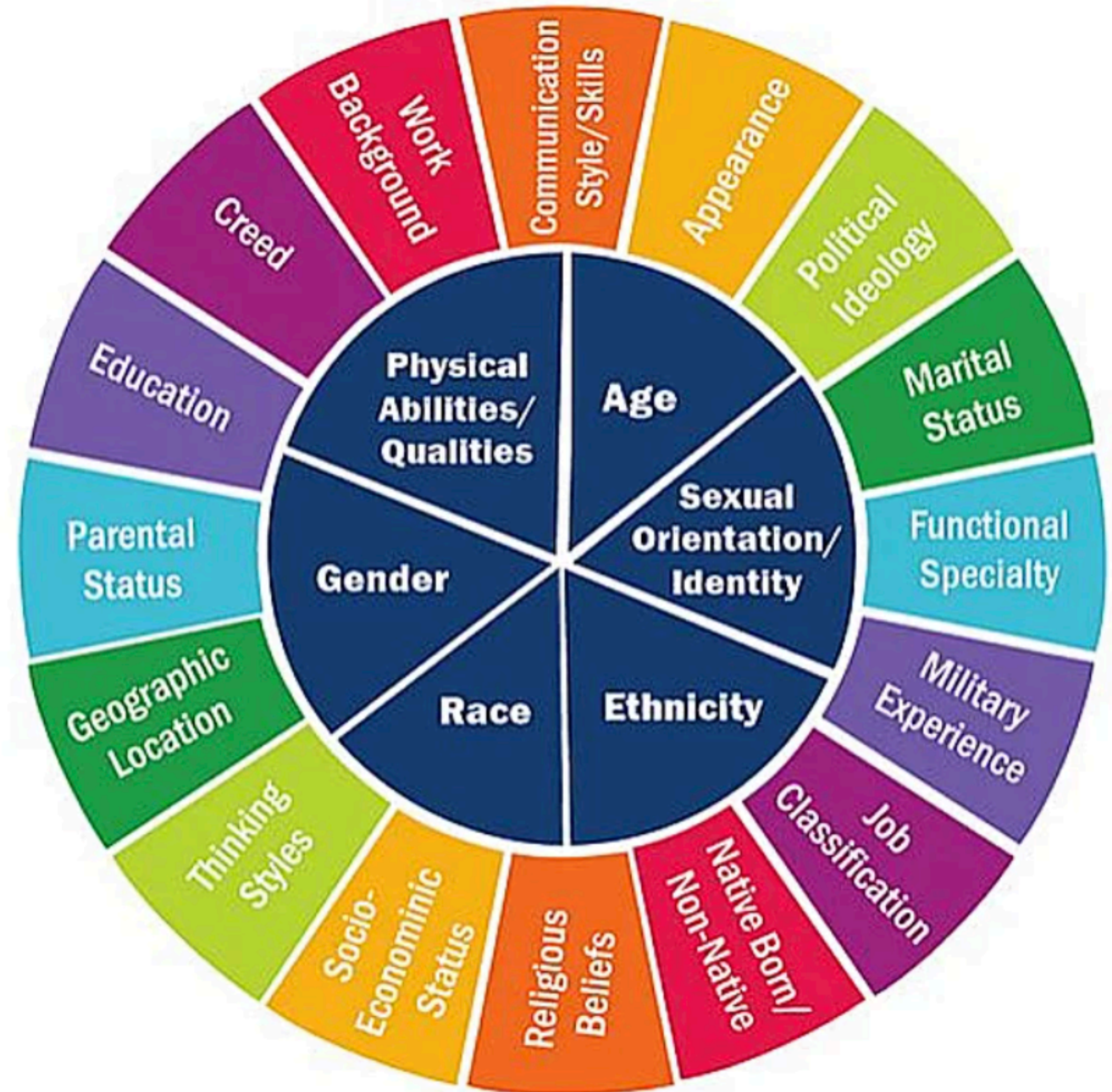
# WHAT IS EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION?

- **Equity:** Requires continuously challenging historically accepted ways of doing things. To give people the resources they need to be successful rather than giving everyone the same tools and support.
- **Diversity:** Is a relational concept; no one person can be diverse on their own; we are diverse in our identities, experiences, and relationships with each other.
- **Inclusion:** Relates to the quality of the experience that people have in their work environment. Creating an inclusive environment means anticipating that people experience the world differently and designing experiences to reflect these needs.



# INTERSECTIONALITY

- Intersectionality is a concept coined by American scholar [Kimberlé Crenshaw](#).
- Intersectionality is a [prism or lens](#) to understand how people's experiences of multiple and overlapping identities and systems of oppression impact their life experiences and opportunities.
- Leaders who use an intersectional lens make [better decisions](#) about policy, and resources.
- An intersectional approach can also spark [innovation](#).





# EDI IN 2020 RECOGNITION AND ACTION

World

Women are systematically excluded from global coronavirus coverage, experts say



**‘Blood, sweat and tears’:  
Building a network for  
Black scientists**



WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

**Disability inclusion isn't a tick-box exercise. It's vital to achieving the SDGs**



An ATM designed for visually impaired and people with disabilities in Sharjah, UAE.

Image: Reuters/Satish Kumar

**Trailblazer in the Arctic: A Tribute to the First African American to Reach Both Poles**

March 3, 2020 · By [Kimberly Aiken](#) · [Commentary](#), [Society and Culture](#)



**Postdoc survey reveals disenchantment with working life**

**Women on Arctic research mission told not to wear tight-fitting clothing**



Alfred-Wegener-Institut leads MOSAiC mission, says clothing policy relates to hygiene and occupational safety

[Bradlyn Oakes](#), [John Last](#) · CBC News · Posted: Sep 28, 2020 2:00 AM CT | Last Updated: September 28



ISTOCK.COM/MARIJARADOVIC

**‘Now I know I’m not alone.’ Study highlights challenges LGBTQ workers in STEM face**

Thunder Bay

**Eabametoong Chief concerned about hydrocarbon spill after vehicle capsizes in lake near the First Nation**



Rohl Enterprise's amphibious vehicle capsized in a lake just northwest of Eabametoong First Nation on Thursday

[Logan Turner](#) · CBC News · Posted: Nov 11, 2020 4:00 PM ET | Last Updated: November 11



**Half of child psychiatrists surveyed say patients have environment anxiety**

**Research finds young people in England feel growing distress about the future of the planet**



▲ Young people are growing up with a backdrop of fear and worry about the planet's future. Photograph: Paul Quayle/Alamy



# DIVERSITY IS ORGANIC EQUITY AND INCLUSION ARE INTENTIONAL

## — Self-awareness means understanding:

- \* Your own identity(s) to have [empathy](#) for others;
- \* Your [privilege](#) to be able to extend it to people who do not have the same advantages as you;
- \* [Self-care](#) is important to your well-being and how you show up for yourself and others.

## — Allyship requires:

- \* Active [listening](#): It's one of the most powerful tools in EDI work;
- \* An [active practice](#) that includes holding space for others to speak, to be heard, to notice who is present and absent.

## — Embrace complexity:

- \* EDI work is layered and involves long-term commitment and continuous improvement;
- \* The connections between people, climate, and economy are [accelerating](#) faster and becoming more complex. Leaders must be intentional about preventing and reversing inequities.



# INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP IN WATER RESEARCH

- **Redefine Professionalism:** “Professionalism” is coded — by [white middle/upper social class standards](#), the [segmentation of work and non-work](#), [European appearance standards](#), and the expectation that people [bring only their “work selves” to work](#)” – (Roberts and McCluney 2020).
- **Design Thinking:** Designing experiences with [inclusion in mind](#) from the start with consultation and opportunities for feedback.
- **Innovation:** People who have experience with a challenge are the most likely to solve it, in essence innovating their own problems. Many technologies that are commonly used today started as adaptations by the [dis\(ability\)](#) community.
- **Systems Based Approaches:** Inequities are rarely one time events, yet the people experiencing them often feel profoundly isolated. Leaders need to be able to connect individual experiences to [system](#) wide change.



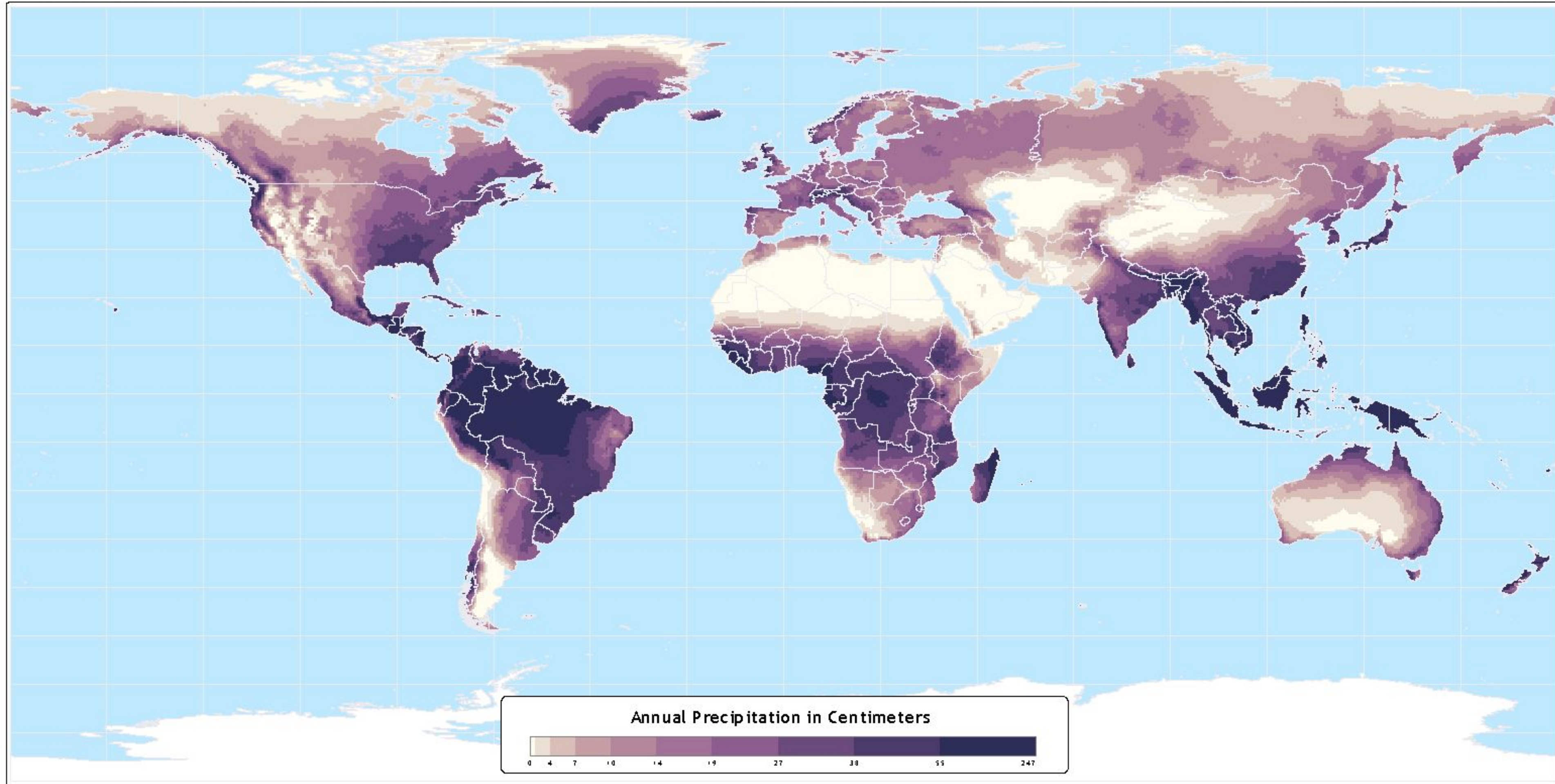
# PEOPLE AND WATER

**1. Water is not evenly distributed around the world**





# Annual Total Precipitation

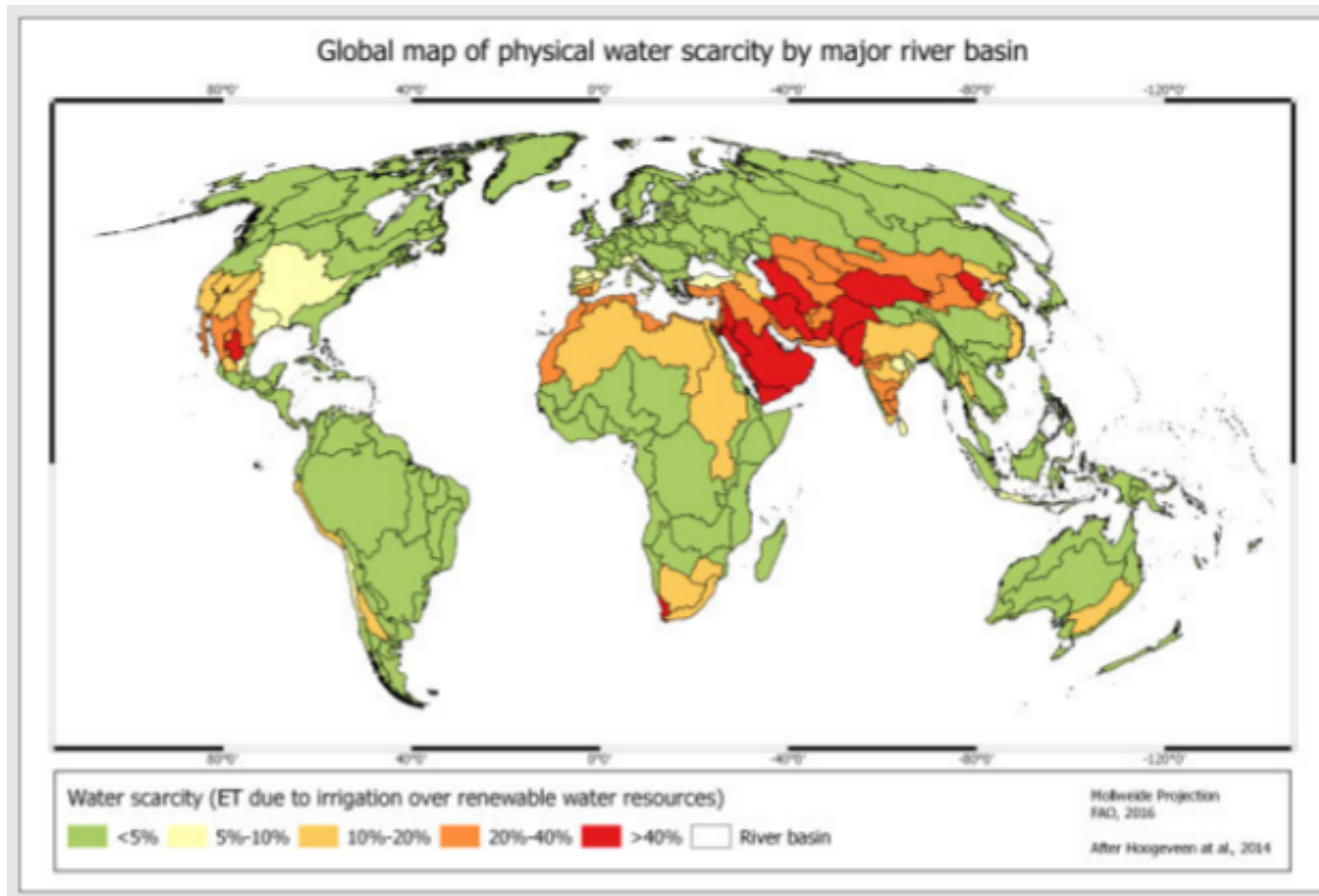


Data taken from: CRU 0.5 Degree Dataset (New et al)

**Atlas of the Biosphere**  
Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment  
University of Wisconsin - Madison



# WATER STRESS AROUND THE WORLD







# PEOPLE AND WATER

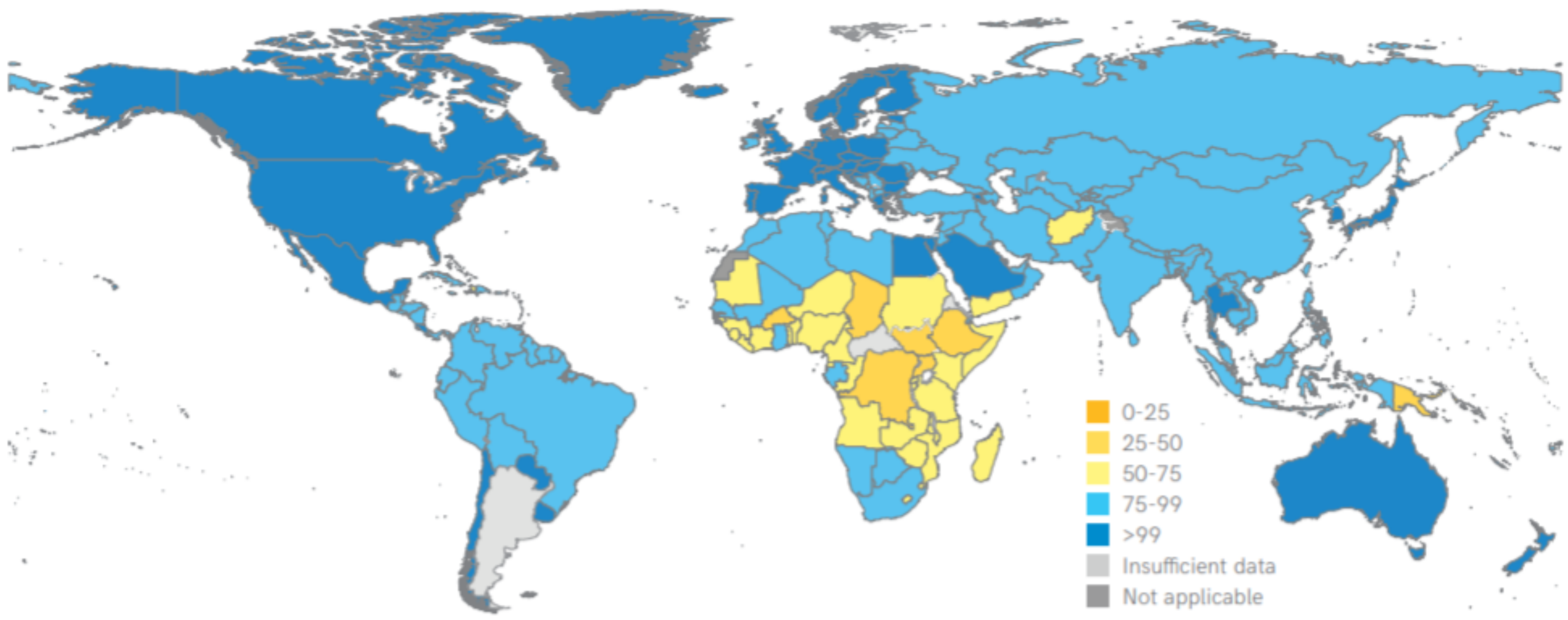
1. Water is not evenly distributed around the world

**2. Water infrastructure and access are not evenly distributed around the world**





In 2017, 80 countries had achieved 'nearly universal' coverage of at least basic drinking water services

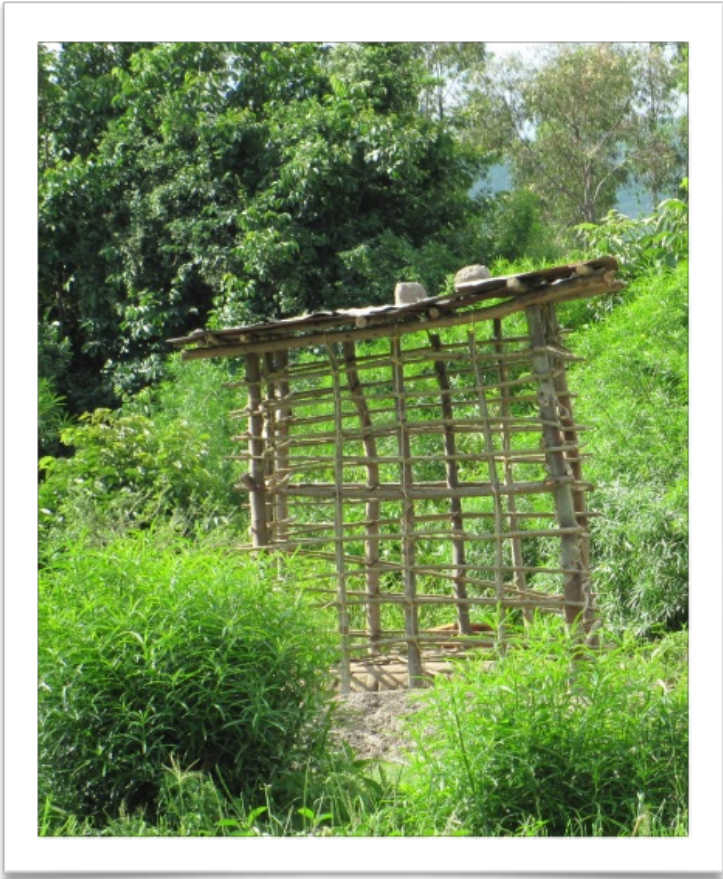
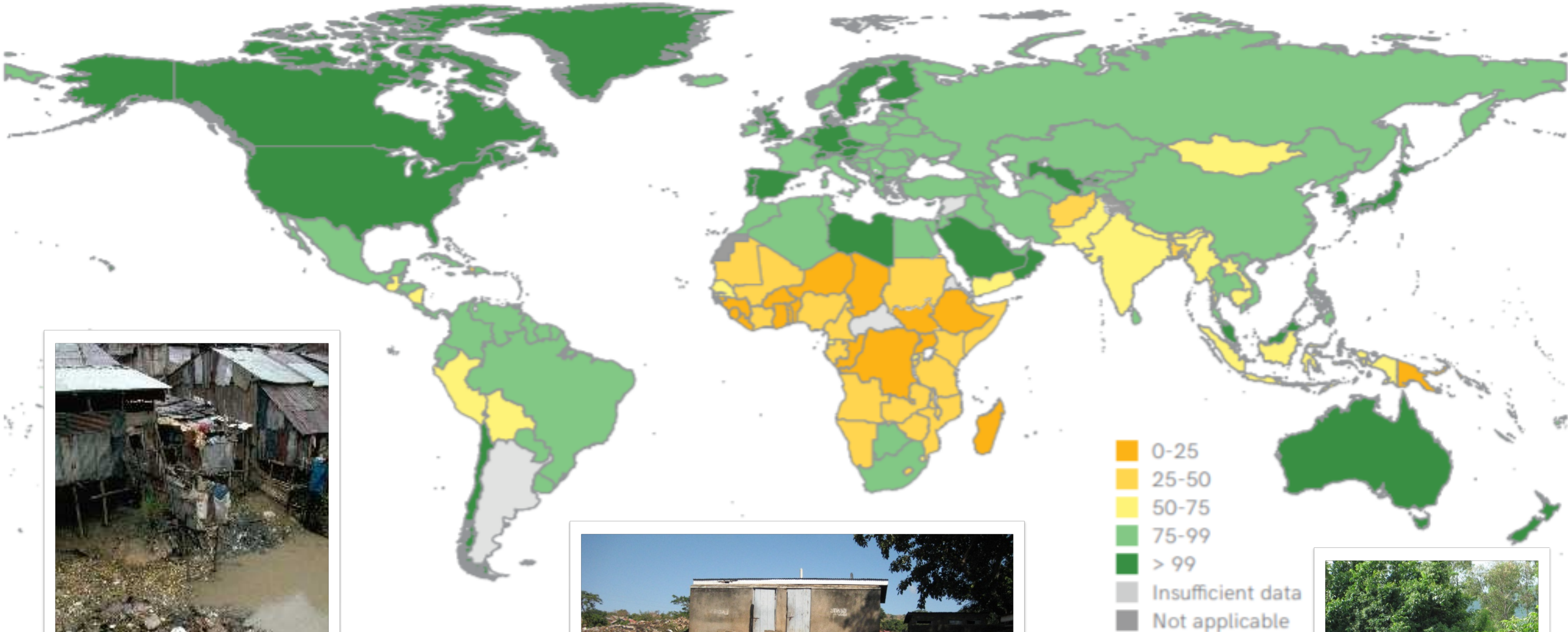


SDG 6.1



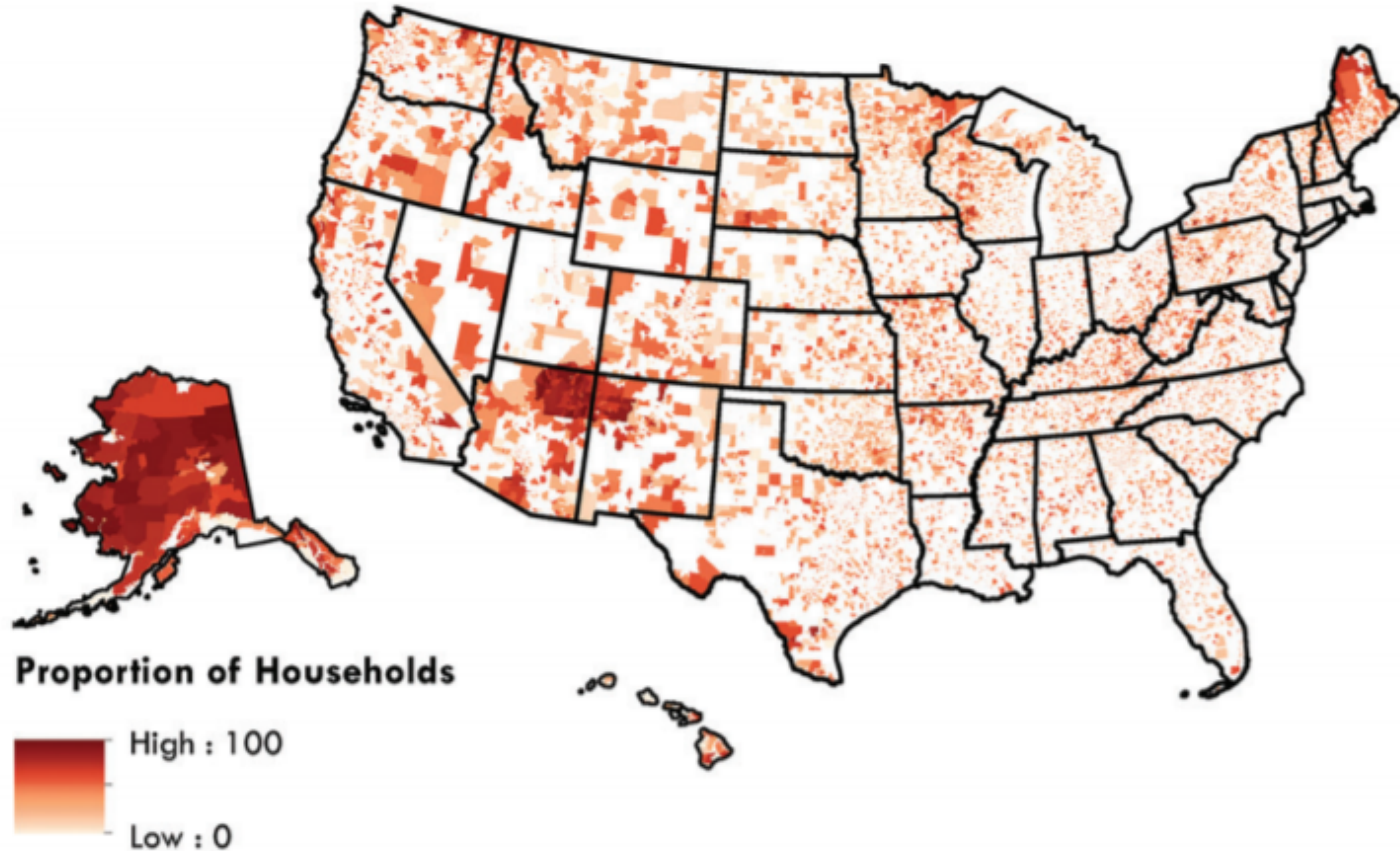


In 2017, 51 countries had achieved 'nearly universal' coverage of basic sanitation services





# PLUMBING POVERTY IN THE USA



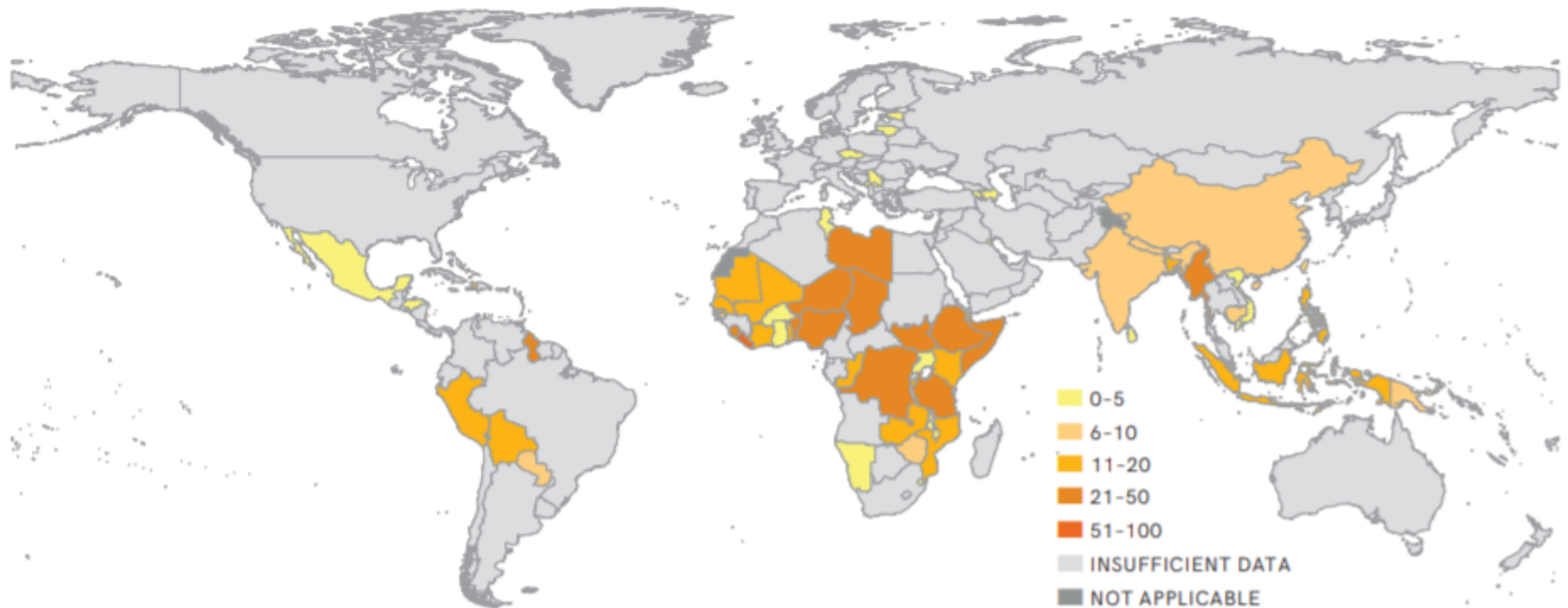
Who is more likely to lack complete plumbing?

- AIAN households (3.7 times more likely)
- Black and Hispanic (both 1.2 times more likely)
- Mobile homes (2.5 times more likely)
- Renters (1.4 times more likely)



# WASH AND COVID-19\*

In 16 out of 69 countries with data available, more than 20% of health care facilities had no **water service** in 2016

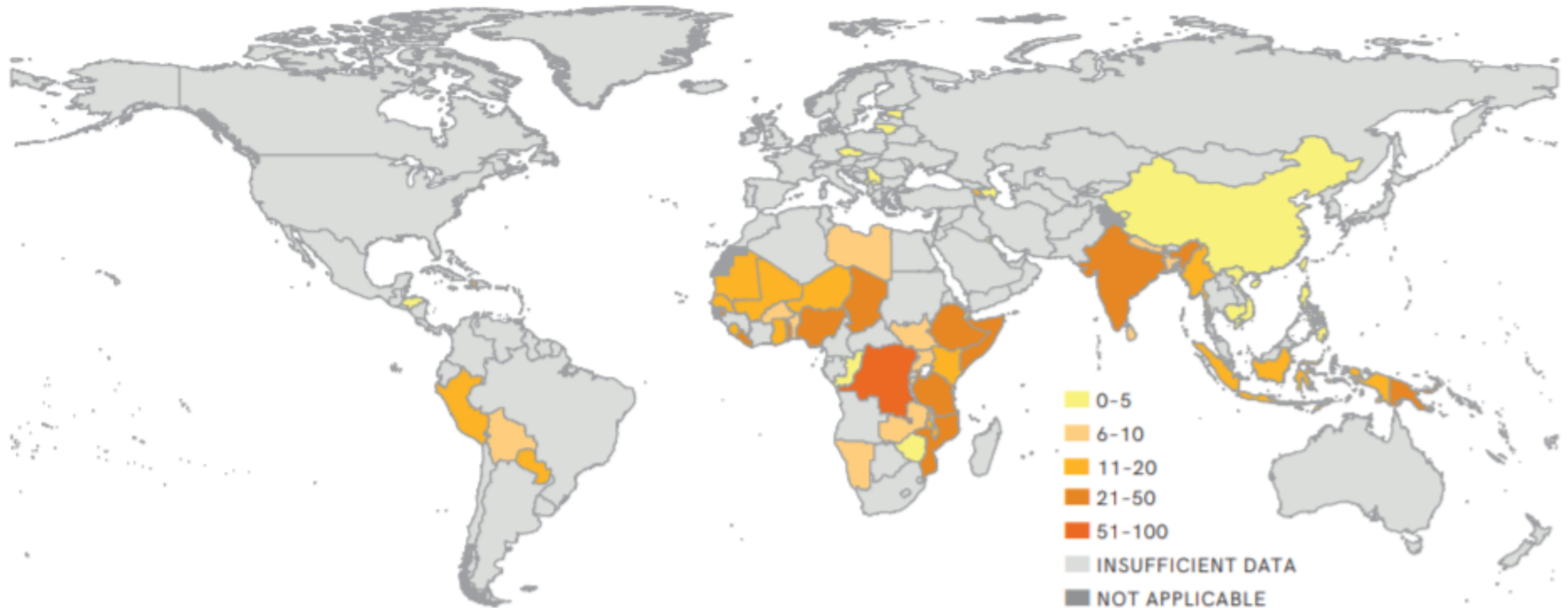


**FIGURE 4** Proportion of health care facilities with no water service, 2016 (%)

\* Or any other infectious disease outbreak...



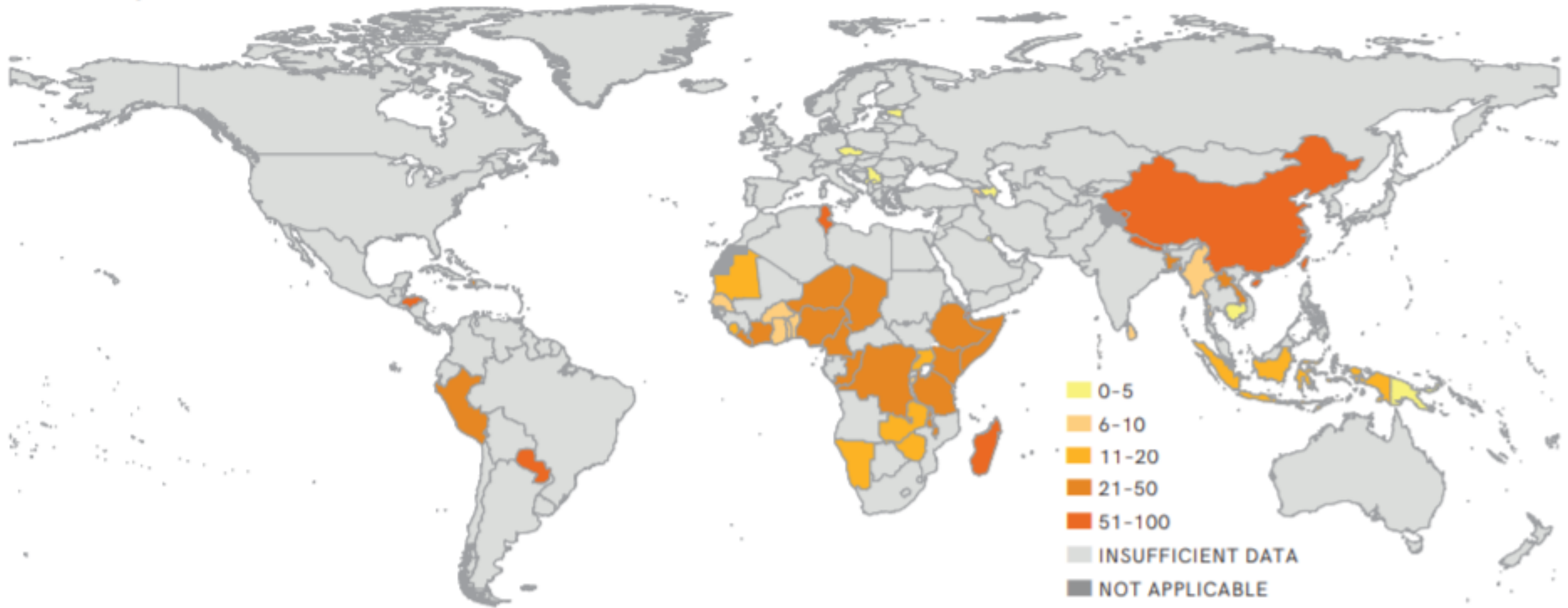
In 28 out of 66 countries with data available, more than 10% of health care facilities had **no sanitation** service in 2016



**FIGURE 7** Proportion of health care facilities with no sanitation service, 2016 (%)



In 8 out of 55 countries with data available, more than half of health care facilities lacked handwashing facilities at points of care in 2016



**FIGURE 10** Proportion of health care facilities lacking hand hygiene facilities at points of care, 2016 (%)





# PEOPLE AND WATER

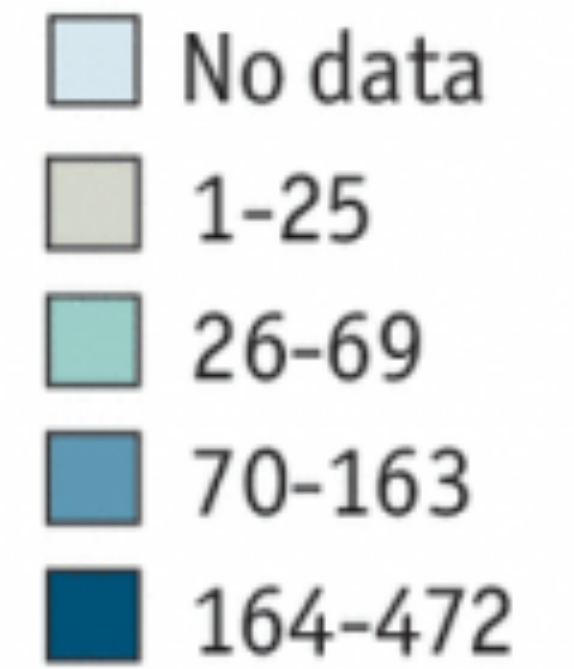
1. Water is not evenly distributed around the world
2. Water infrastructure and access are not evenly distributed around the world
- 3. Threats from water quality and quantity are not evenly distributed around the world**





# Disaster zones

Total number of natural disasters\* reported per country, 1995-2015



Toronto  
Star



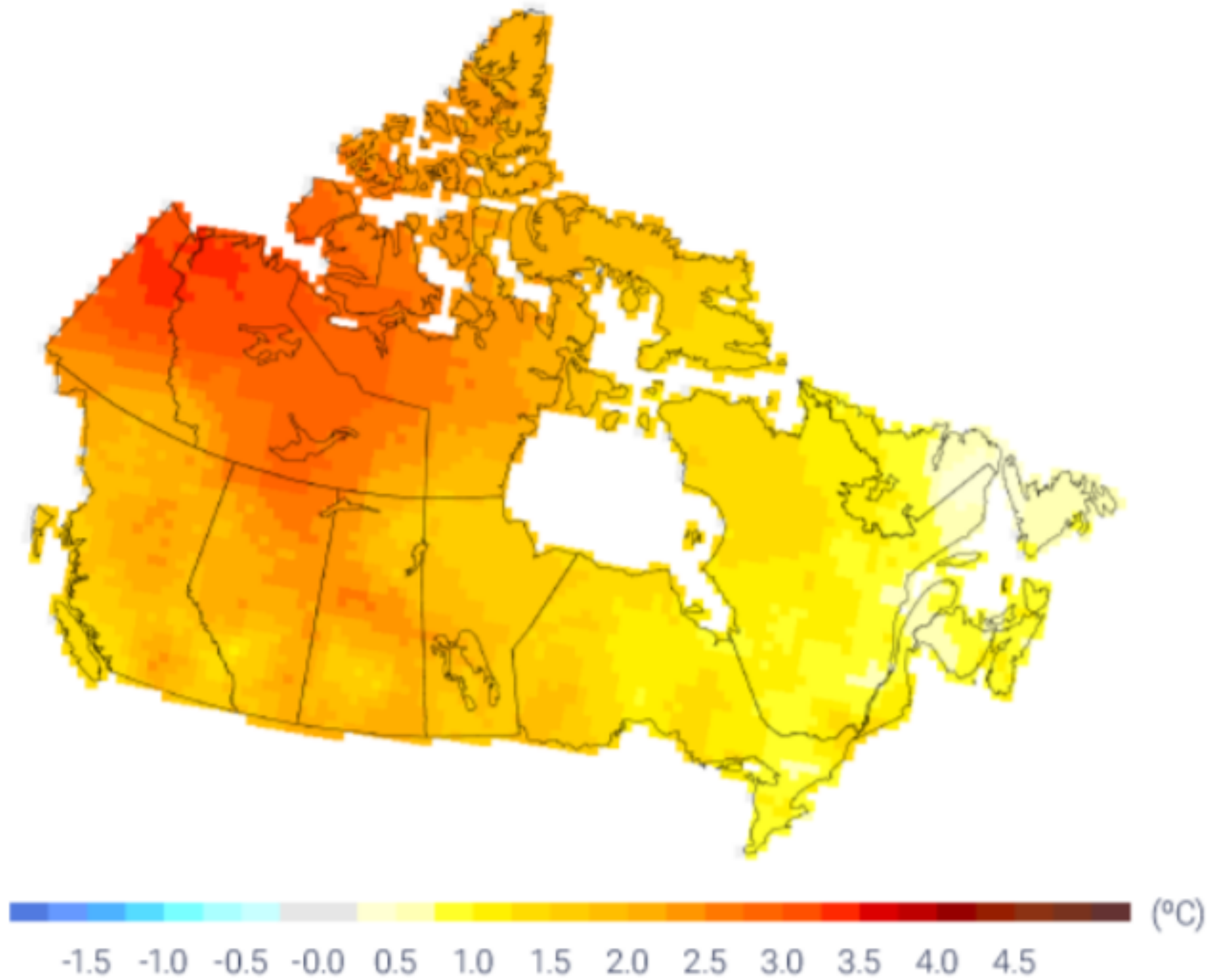
Source: UNISDR

Economist.com

\*Hydrological, climatological and meteorological



1948–2016












# PEOPLE AND WATER

1. Water is not evenly distributed around the world
  2. Water infrastructure and access are not evenly distributed around the world
  3. Threats from water quality and quantity are not evenly distributed around the world
  - 4. Solutions do not benefit everyone equally**
- 



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CANADA

- 99% of Canadians have safely managed drinking water access
- 1% of the Canadian population represents approximately 360,000 people

the national challenge of ensuring safe drinking water for First Nations reserves has persisted for many, many years, due to deep institutional issues rather than a lack of technology

Biggs and McArthur, 2018 A Canadian North Star  
Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada, 2018

Updated February 15, 2020



**All**  
long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserves **lifted** by

**March**  
**2021**

**88** long-term drinking water advisories lifted since November 2015  
**61** long-term drinking water advisories in effect

Projects underway or completed as of September 30, 2019



**441**

projects to repair, upgrade or build infrastructure



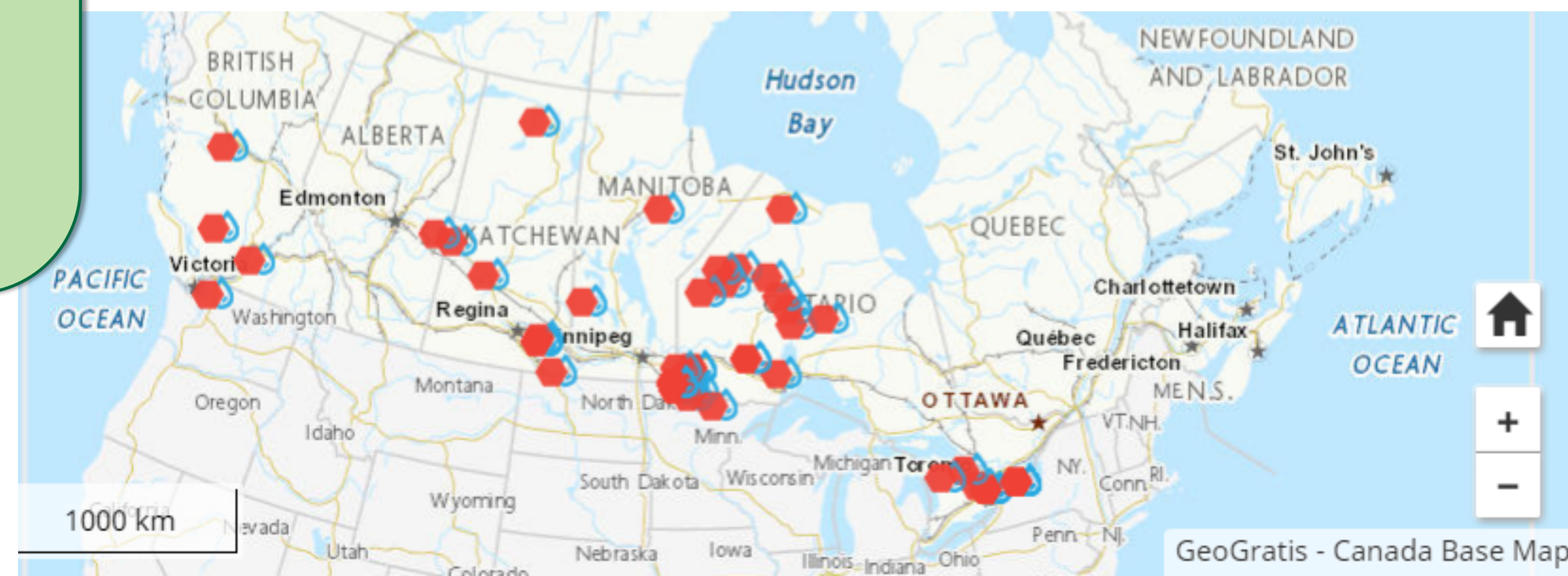
**59**

supporting projects and initiatives



**74**

feasibility studies and projects in the design phase





# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Better Data
- Better research design
- Better Research
- Better knowledge mobilization
- Better Policies, Programs, and Practices

What?

Who?

How?

Why?





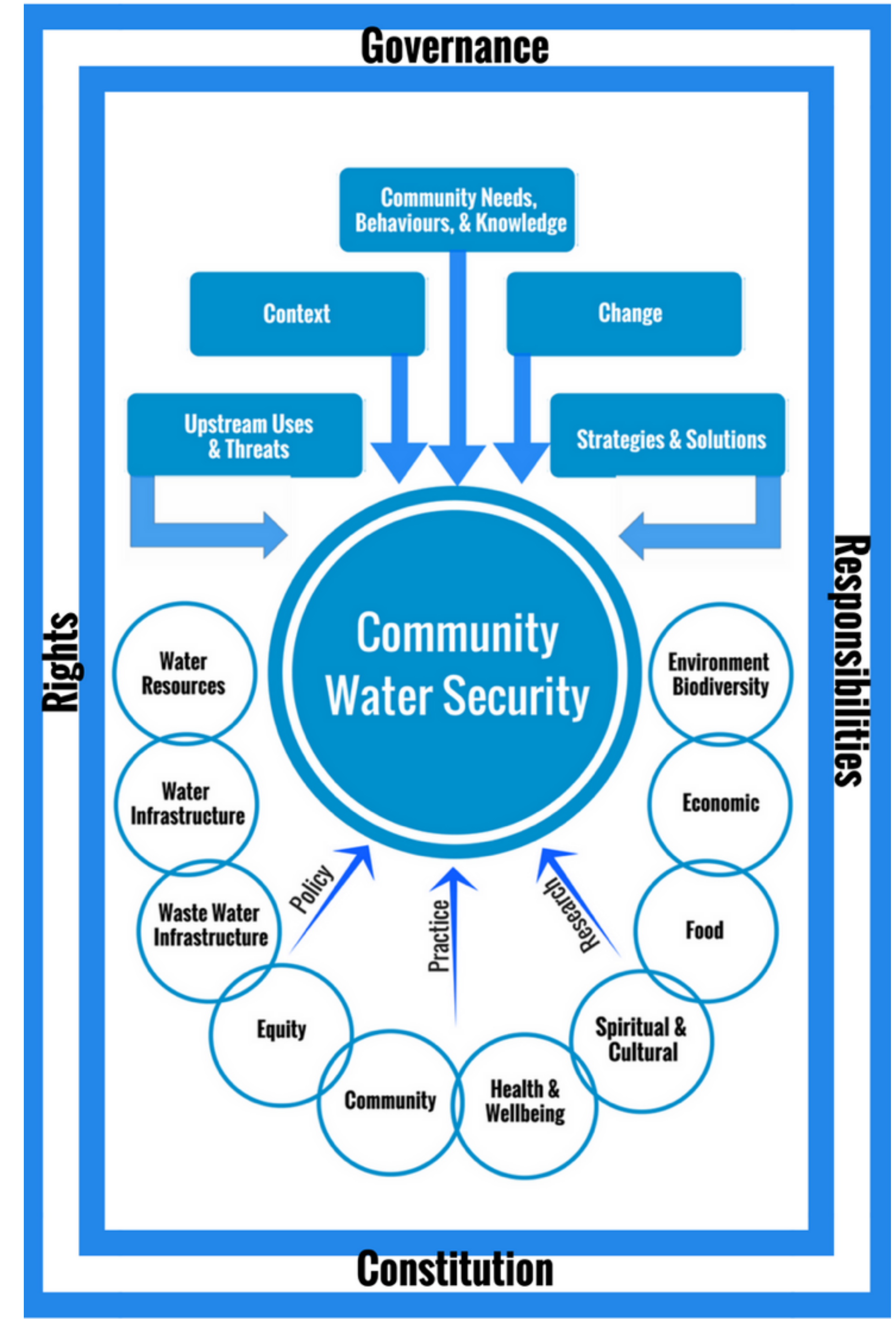


# **FINAL THOUGHTS – WATER SECURITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY**



# FRAMING LOCAL WATER SECURITY WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Latchmore et al., 2019 J. Water Health





# **“HUMAN EXPERIENCE IS CONSTRUCTED AT THE INTERSECTION OF BOTH SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS” - (THOMPSON, 2015)**

## **— Status**

- Low- and middle- versus high-income**
- Rural versus urban**
- Ability**
- Age**
- Sex & Gender**
- Socio-economic**
- Ethnicity & Culture**

## **— Dimensions of Water Security**

- Water availability**
- Water quality**
- WaSH access**
- Water fetching**
- Ecosystem services access, use, value**
- Water-related disasters**
- Water sector employment**
- Water management & governance**



# CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS?



# THANK YOU

For Additional Information Please Contact: Dr. Andrea May Rowe, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, Global Institute for Water Security, and Global Water Futures at [andrea.rowe@usask.ca](mailto:andrea.rowe@usask.ca) or Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Associate Director Global Water Futures, Professor Geography and Planning at [cschuster.wallace@usask.ca](mailto:cschuster.wallace@usask.ca).

\*Please note the language in this document reflects a certain time and place, Canada in 2020. The language used in EDI work is continually evolving to reflect the preferences and experiences of people and communities. This document will be updated periodically to reflect this evolution.



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Ohneganos: Water is Life Project <https://www.ohneganos.com/>

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

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