

America
Population: 291 million
Annual Rainfall: 981 mm

95% of the water in United States' fresh water is underground. The Ogallala aquifer is 800 miles long and stretched from South Dakota to Texas. In some areas the aquifer is being depleted by 90-150cm a year.

Mexico
Population: 102 million
Annual Rainfall: 816 mm

The amount of water being pumped from Mexico City's foundations is causing it to sink. 80% of its water is from aquifers below the city – causing it to sink 9 metres into the drained lake bed since 1900. 27% of the city's water is wasted to leaks.

Peru
Population: 27 million
Annual Rainfall: 13 mm

Peru is South America's most water stressed country. Most of the west coast would be desert if it not for snow melt from the Andean mountains. 70% of the country's population live on this coast – where only 2% of the water resource is located.

Spain
Population: 41 million
Annual Rainfall: 436 mm

The Spanish government has planned to build several desalination plants to provide water for the near-desert southern coast

China
Population: 1,295 million
Annual Rainfall: 578 mm

China experiences floods in the south and drought in the north. A very big construction project is currently underway – building the Three Gorges Dam – to try to control flood waters and generate hydroelectric power. In 1997, one of China's major rivers – the Yellow River – ran dry for 226 days!

River Ganges – India/Bangladesh
Population: 1,050 million
Annual Rainfall: 2,402 mm

The Ganges has been the source of a long running dispute between India and Bangladesh. The two countries have now signed an agreement to share the water equally. However the glacier which feeds the river is retreating due to climate change.

Ethiopia
Population: 69 million
Annual Rainfall: 1,055 mm

Women and children can walk as much as 6 hours to collect water. Most people collect water from shallow, unprotected ponds which they share with animals. In the last 20 years, Ethiopia has experienced recurring droughts followed by food shortages and famines.

Australia
Population: 20 million
Annual Rainfall: 628 mm

Australia is the continent with the least rainfall (apart from Antarctica).

2 major rivers supply 3 million people water and supply 40% of the country's farm land.

