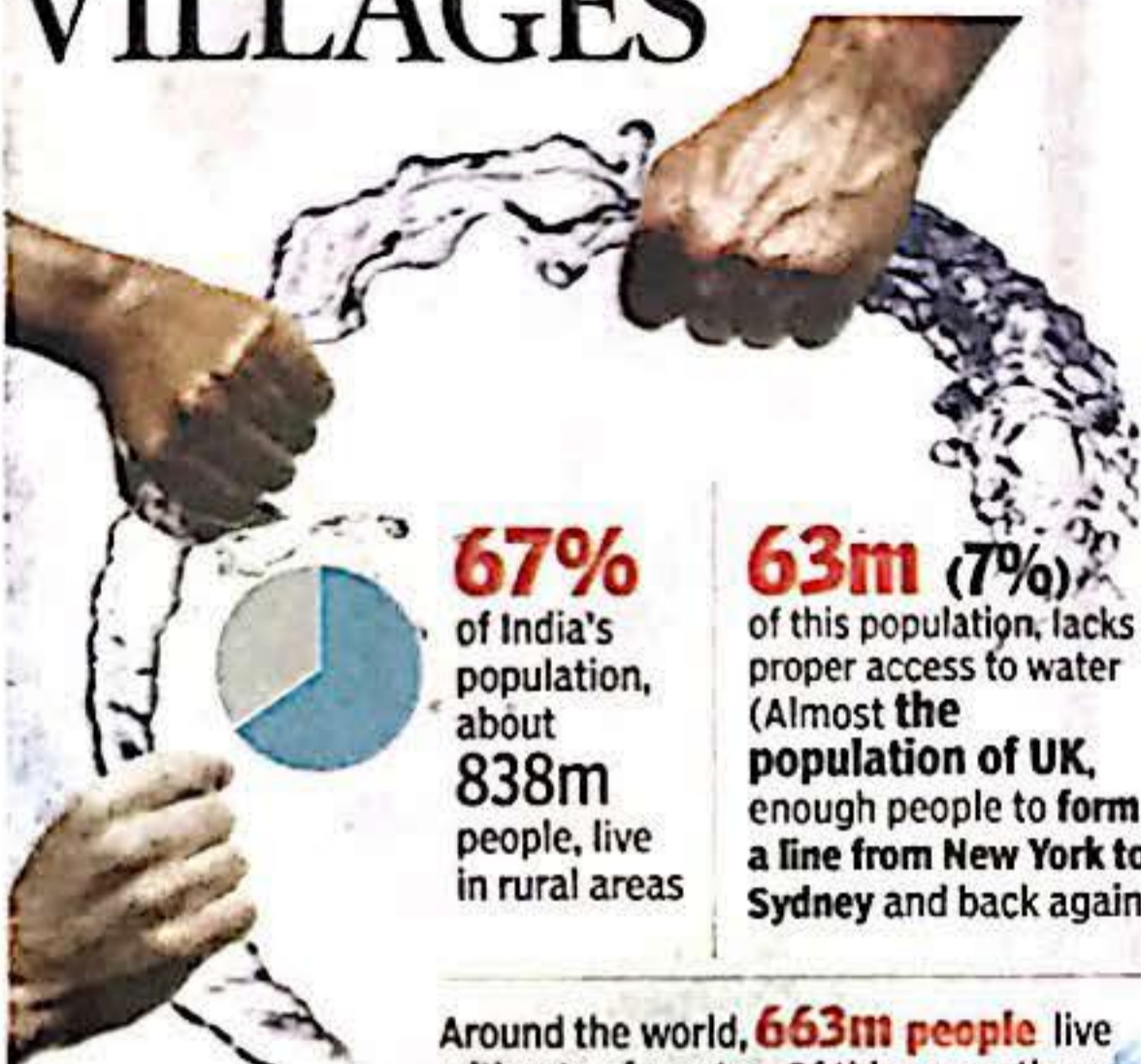


63 MILLION PEOPLE in rural India lack access to safe water — the highest globally. That means about a 10th of those across the world facing serious water issues live in India. International NGO WaterAid says while the worldwide problem is compounded by a growing population and climate change, not having access to clean water makes communities more vulnerable to extreme weather events

A 10TH OF WORLD'S THIRSTY LIVE IN INDIA'S VILLAGES



67% of India's population, about **838m** people, live in rural areas

63m (7%) of this population, lacks proper access to water (Almost the population of UK, enough people to form a line from New York to Sydney and back again)

Around the world, **663m people** live without safe water. Of this, more than 500m — enough to circle the world over six times — are in rural areas

Last year, Indian government said that **more than a quarter** of the country's population was affected by drought

According to India's official Ground Water Resources Assessment, **more than one-sixth** of the country's groundwater supply is overused

Problem of global proportions

In 2016, global temperatures reached a record high for the 3rd year in a row, worsening the water crisis



By 2050, over **40%** of world's population likely to be living in areas facing 'severe water stress'

Around **80%** of the global population already faces threats to its water security



Over **315,000 children** (almost 900 a day) die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation

What prevents access to clean water worldwide

Poor management & sustainability: Lack of reliable water supply networks

Social inequalities & poverty: Access denied in some countries because of people's gender, ethnicity, social status, political affiliation

Population growth: Global population is projected to reach 8.5bn by 2030 and 9.7bn by 2050, with much of that growth in the developing world. This means greater demand, competition for already fragile water resources

Existing climate variability: Unpredictable weather patterns pose a threat to the water and food supplies of agriculture-reliant rural communities. Climate change is likely to add to the problem



Impact on women

Women and girls are typically responsible for collecting water and often spend hours walking between their home and the nearest water source

More time spent fetching water means less time for earning money or going to school

Impact on health

UN's climate change panel warns an estimated **50%** of malnutrition cases are linked to diseases from unsafe water and inadequate sanitation

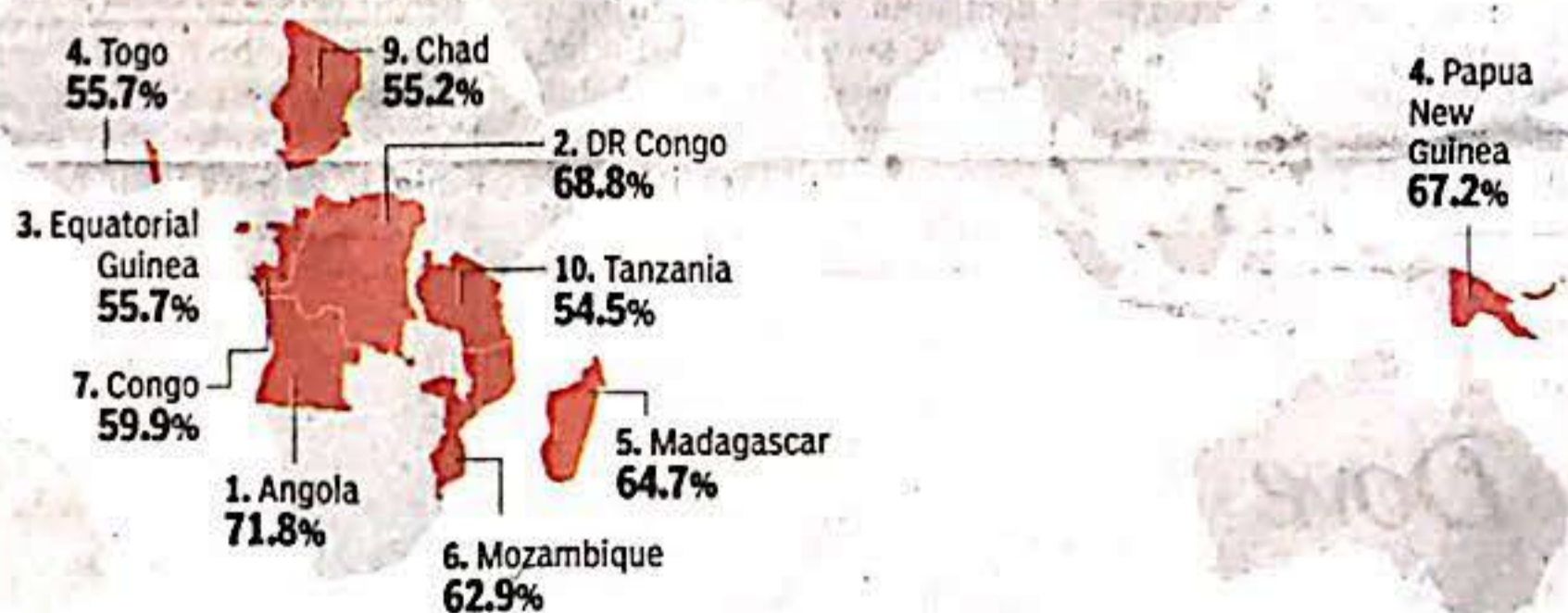
'WILD WATER'

The NGO highlighted the phenomenon of 'wild water', or unpredictable weather patterns, that result in more storm surges, flooding, prolonged droughts and contaminated water sources

'Wild water' events can dry up rivers, ponds and springs & contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases

The world's worst countries for rural water access

Top 10 countries with the greatest percentage of rural population without clean water



Top 10 countries with the greatest numbers of rural people without clean water



Top 5 countries worldwide in terms of improved rural water access:

	2000 (%)	2015 (%)
Paraguay	51.6	94.9
Malawi	57.3	89.1
Lao	37.9	69.4
People's DR	38.1	69.1
Ethiopia	18.9	48.6