



CINE-ONU

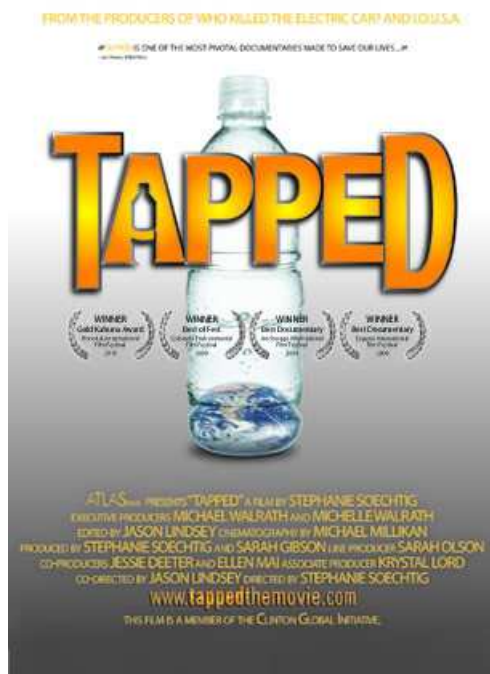
To mark World Water Day

the United Nations in partnership with the Goethe Institute

invites you to the screening of

TAPPED

Tuesday, 22 March 2011, 6:30 p.m.



“By the year 2030, two-thirds of the world will be lacking access to clean drinking water. This is a problem that every single person will be dealing with, regardless of where they live in the world.”

Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right , or a commodity that should be bought like any other article of commerce?

Stephanie Soechtig’s documentary *Tapped* is an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water. From the plastic production to the ocean in which so many of these bottles end up, this documentary follows the path of the bottled water industry and the communities which were the unwitting chips on the table.

Tapped illustrates the undeniable fact that bottled water is more of a behavioural issue than a necessity, and, contrary to popular belief, is not beneficial to our health.

Thierry Lucas is UNEP’s focal point on EU Environment Research in the Brussels Liaison office, covering a wide range of topics. Mr Lucas has served the UN for 15 years, with field experience in more than 25 countries worldwide (Africa, Asia). He was project manager for one of the biggest adolescent health programmes in Asia from 2003 to 2007, coordinating a consortium of 33 projects implemented by NGOs and local governments. He holds an engineering degree from Polytechnique Grenoble (France) in computer science and applied mathematics.



Videos on water, including interviews with experts, can be viewed on the UN-Water YouTube channel for the Day: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UNWaterWorldWaterDay>



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Water and Cities



Media brief

WHAT are the challenges?

- **Half of humanity** now lives in cities and every second the urban population grows by 2 people. In Africa and Asia, the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030.
- **141 million urban** dwellers do not have access to safe drinking- water.
- One out of four city residents, **794 million** in total, lives without access to improved sanitation facilities.
- The situation in these urban areas leads to water related **diseases** such as diarrhoea, malaria and cholera epidemics.
- Progress in access to water and sanitation in the last decades is undermined by the rapid **urban population growth**.

WHERE is the situation most pressing?

- Urbanisation is most rapid in **developing countries**, where cities gain an average of **5 million** residents every month.
- The situation is most pressing in slums, hosting **828 million** urban dwellers. These people do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation services and their unstable houses are vulnerable to water and environmental related disasters such as floods or landslides.

WHO is most affected?

- The **urban poor** are most affected. They are often not connected to the urban water supply system and rely on expensive private water vendors
 - Example - in Accra, Ghana, the urban poor pay up to 12 times more for a litre of water than their richer neighbours in other parts of the city.
- Sanitation reality for many urban poor: No or limited access to sanitation (public or private latrines). The daily reality for many in informal settlements is to defecate in a bag ('flying toilet'), open sewage and waste in the backyard.

WHEN are changes being realized?

- The **Millennium Development Goals**, formulated in 2000, call for:
 - a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
 - a reduction by half of the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.
- At the current rate of progress, the drinking water target will be achieved by **2015**.
- However, at the current rate of progress the world will **miss the sanitation target**. Urban areas, though often better served than rural areas, are struggling to keep up with the growth of the urban population.
- Also the slum improvements are failing to keep pace with urban population growth. Although the share of the urban population living in slums in the developing world has declined from 39% in 2000 to 33% in 2010, the absolute number of slum dwellers in the developing world is growing by 6 million slum dwellers each year.