

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Global Commodities Forum


13 –15 September 2021, Geneva and Barbados (online)

Sustainable Solutions to Address Water Challenges

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



Sustainable Solutions to Address Water Challenges

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What are the Challenges?

There are two parts to answering the question:

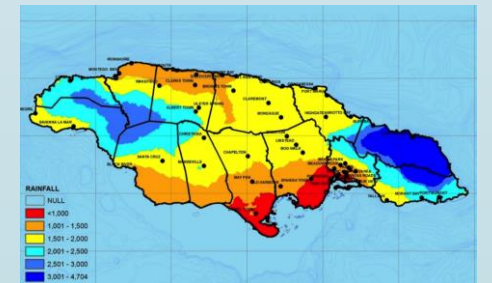
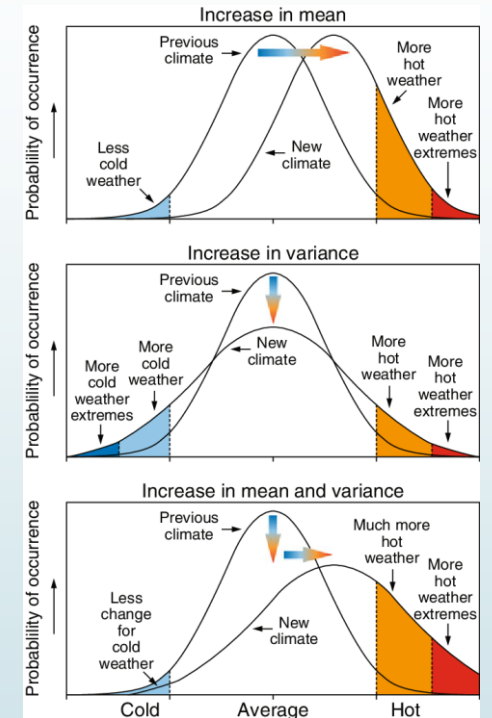
- ▶ Challenges facing the Water Resource itself
- ▶ Challenges facing the ability to make water resources available

Water Resource Challenges

- **Climate variability**
 - Changes in extreme weather conditions
- **Water scarcity**
 - Time & space
- **Pollution- chemically induced drought**

There are measures, such as:

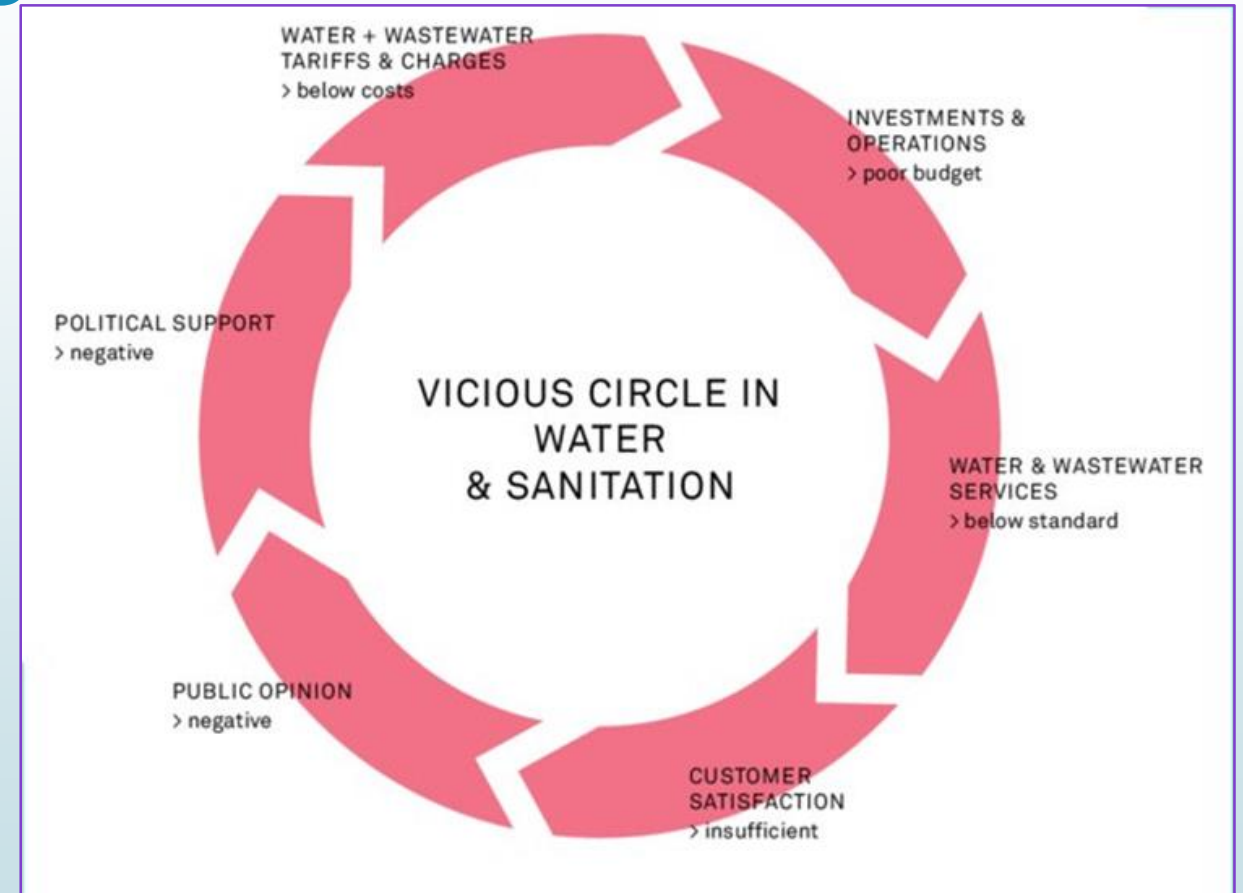
- Diversify sources & conjunctive use
- Backstop technology - desalination



Water Services Challenges – making water available

- Uncertain Finances
- Aging infrastructure
- Inadequate planning
- Lack of data
- Poor service coverage
- Political diktat/meddling
- Human resource capacity

These are challenges of governance



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Agriculture faces its own challenges

- ▶ **Minor economic activity in most countries**
- ▶ **Small scale subsistence with aging participation**
- ▶ **Mostly rainfed – increasing vulnerability to climate change & variability**
- ▶ **Technologically backward**
- ▶ **Fragmented**



Solutions and Good Practice

- ▶ Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Water Sector (RSAP)
- ▶ The Latin America Water Observatory
- ▶ Jamaica's National Water Sector Policy
- ▶ Establishment of Water Resources agencies
- ▶ Crisis in water utility funding starting to push new thinking
- ▶ Increased interest in uses of wastewater

But fundamental problems of Good Governance and Planning are not being addressed