

# Water Justice

## Awareness-raising activity

for Creation Time 2013



Photo: [United Nations Photo](#)

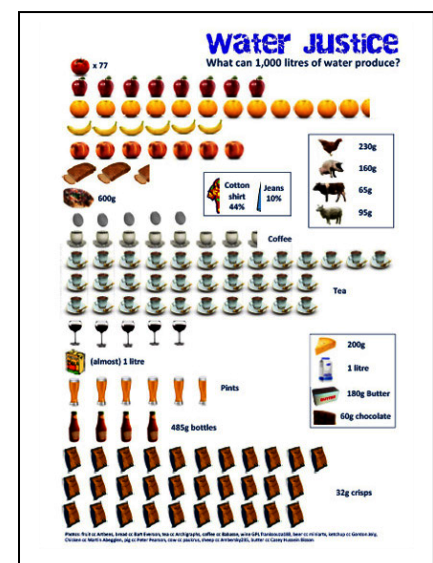
### The virtual water cube

Do you know how many potatoes can be produced using one cubic metre of water? Or how much rice, beef, chicken, or coffee we can produce instead?

Virtual water is the water needed to provide the different goods and services we consume every day. While the water we use directly for cooking, bathing, flushing the toilet, etc. usually comes from water sources in our home region, food and goods are often in part, or completely, produced abroad. Our consumption therefore influences the use and availability of water in other countries.

A 'virtual water cube' demonstration can help raise awareness of the links between consumption and water use. It is simple to prepare, and has a great visual impact.

- 1 Beforehand, make the water cube. This is a simple construction of wood, cardboard or other materials to make a 1-metre cubed frame. The frame symbolizes 1000 litres of water (or 1 cubic metre of water). Try to use environmentally-friendly materials (such as wood certified by the FSC, recycled cardboard, etc.) if possible.
- 2 Download the Factsheet ([www.ctbi.org.uk/ctresources](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/ctresources)) to hand out or display for people to read. Be aware that 100 sheets of paper will use up your water cube!
- 3 For the demonstration, using the information on the factsheet, display within the water cube what quantity of different products can be produced using 1000 litres (1 m<sup>3</sup>) of water.
- 4 You can learn more at [www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org) where you can also calculate your individual water footprint.



This activity has been adapted from a resource produced by the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN), a project initiated by the the World Council of Churches comprising a network of churches and Christian organizations promoting people's access to water around the world.

Find out more at <http://water.oikoumene.org/en>

[www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime)