

Groundwater in African cities

Advice to urban authorities and water users

More than 50% of city populations may occupy unplanned settlements or slums

Few of them enjoy piped water; many rely on expensive water sellers (vendors).

People living in **wealthier areas** and business districts have **pip**ed, often **highly-subsidised** water

Many people in unplanned settlements and slums may have **access** to shallow **self-supply wells** which provide them with **convenient, accessible** water

Self-supply wells may be **important** for households that find it **difficult** to access piped water.

However this water is **often contaminated** with human and other waste.

There may be an **accessible** reservoir of **groundwater** beneath cities, including in the **poorer neighbourhoods**. Urban authorities and planners **should not** necessarily close down these water sources, but rather:

Monitor their water quality in a **systematic** way

Promote **household water treatment** to water users who are exposed to faecal contamination risks

Water users can and should **treat water at home** to make it safe.