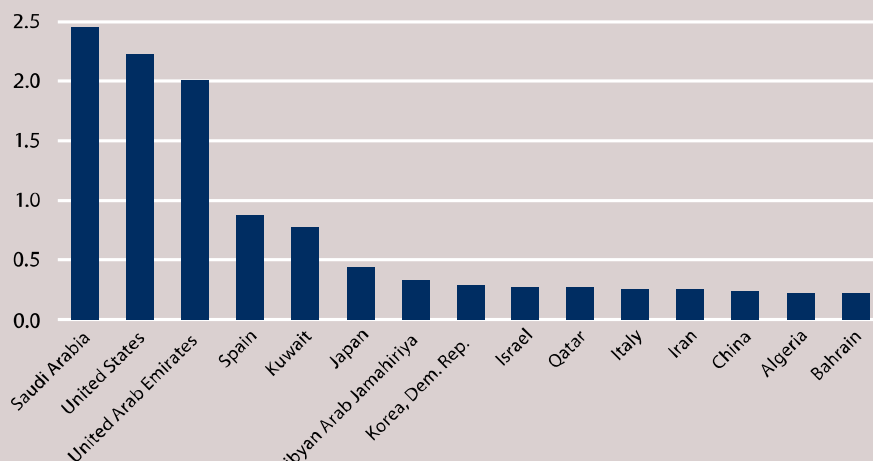


Indicator name

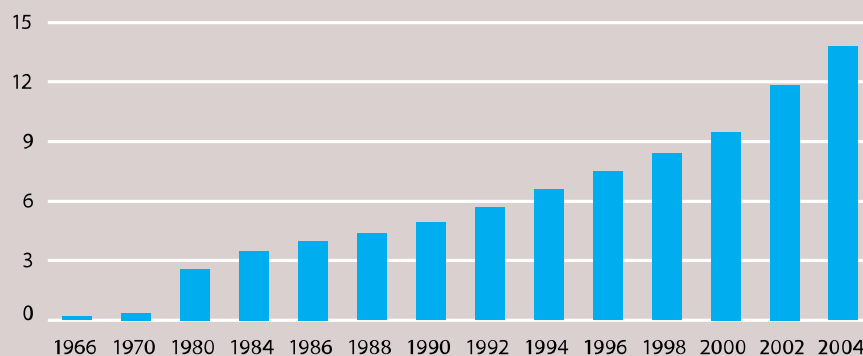
**Volume of desalinated water produced**

Installed capacity (cubic kilometres a year)



Source: Based on Maurel 2006.

Installed capacity (cubic kilometres a year)



Source: Based on Maurel 2006. Data interval 1966-2004

Prepared by	UNIDO
Example	<b>WWDR3, Chapter 9, Box 9.5</b> <b>WWDR2, Chapter 9, Table 9.1</b>
Rationale	Where energy is available, but water supply is constrained, desalination is an increasingly attractive option for providing essential drinking quality water.
Position in DPSIR chain	Response
Definition of indicator	Volume of desalinated water produced per year
Underlying definitions and concepts	Desalination of water can be carried out by thermal distillation, which is very costly in energy terms, or by reverse osmosis, which requires far less energy. In the future it would be valuable to disaggregate the total volume of desalinated water produced into the volumes produced by means of these two technologies.
Specification of determinants needed	Volume of desalinated water produced is measured in millions of cubic meters of drinking quality water produced by these means, per annum
Computation	None necessary.
Unit(s) of expression	Million cubic meters/year

Data sources, availability and quality	FAO's AQUASTAT Good quality, country-level data
Scale of application	National
Geographical coverage	Global
Interpretation	Where energy is cheap and plentiful, and where there is easy access to seawater, desalination is a well-established option for energy supply (e.g. the Middle East). However, as the new technology of reverse osmosis provides desalination at a fraction of the energy cost, this can now be applied to poor quality waters elsewhere, e.g. estuary water or groundwater. The applications of desalination will increase rapidly as water scarcity increases.
Linkage(s) to other indicators	This indicator is a Response to water scarcity, which is possible in countries with plentiful energy supplies and access to the sea.
Alternative methods and definitions	As this is a new technology, alternative sources of reliable data on desalination are scarce. Much data remains anecdotal, or is available for individual desalination plants.
Related indicator sets	International Desalination Association (IDA)
Sources of further information	FAO's AQUASTAT <a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm">http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm</a> (Accessed 02 March 2009)
Other institutions involved	FAO, UNEP, Blue Plan