

### Climate change for water,

In 2009 the World Bank published its estimate that costs for developing countries for water-related climate adaptation, excluding coastal protection, will be \$14-\$19 billion per annum. Such an investment is not yet remotely contemplated by the international community. The impact of global warming on the planet's hydrological cycle will derive from two principal sources; firstly the accelerated thawing of glaciers and snow and, secondly, the disturbance to patterns of rainfall. The reduction in water availability caused by retreating Himalayan glaciers is possibly the impact which carries the greatest risk to the greatest number of people. Changes in rainfall will cause some regions to be wetter and some to be drier; unfortunately the "losers" from this transformation will be the poorer countries. Over one billion people already live in regions classed as arid or semi-arid. In exact resolution of climate prediction models on the scale of human habitations impedes adaptation plans. This will be especially true of those countries which already struggle to provide sufficient access to safe drinking water. In the short term, the best defense against climate change will be to accelerate the provision of institutional capacity for effective delivery of drinking water programs. Failure to synchronise the planet's freshwater resources with the demands of humanity may be the crisis that finally spurs governments into decisive action on climate change.