



Water, Peace & Security

Understand ~ Mobilize ~ Learn ~ Dialogue ~ Act!

Water insecurity is increasing worldwide. 36% of the world's people live in water-scarce regions. On average, droughts affect over 50 million people annually and cause more than \$5 billion of damage. These numbers are set to increase, due to population growth, rapid urbanisation, and growing economic demands for water. Climate change further intensifies these pressures in many regions. In most cases, these threats are not just the result of weather variability, but are also related to inadequate water management and governance issues. These dynamics render societies more vulnerable to short term water scarcity and longer-term droughts, while directly affecting local economies and social relations.



The growing water crisis increasingly poses a threat to livelihoods, agriculture, energy security and local and national economies. This has consequences for the security situation of communities, countries and entire regions, all the way up to the global level. Organisations including the United Nations, the World Economic Forum and the High-Level Panel on Water have therefore all added their voice to these concerns and called for addressing the interlinkages between water (scarcity), conflicts and human as well as political security.

In response, the Water, Peace and Security partnership is designing innovative tools and services that identify water shortage-related security risks. These tools and services demonstrate changes in short term water availability and their impacts on societies, and link them to both hydrological as well as social, economic and political factors. Based on this information, evidence-based actions can be triggered to prevent or mitigate human security risks. The WPS will promote this by raising awareness, developing capacities and supporting dialogue.



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UNDERSTAND

The WPS generates understanding about the risks of water related security threats by creating pioneering models from global data sets, local knowledge and satellite imagery. This creates important information for policy makers, including early warning signals and decision tools that show where and when risks are increasing and how they can be addressed.

MOBILISE

This information helps decision makers, including politicians, communities and the private sector, to act. The WPS team assists this by reaching out to 3D audiences (Diplomats, Defence and Development experts) along with other national governments and stakeholders in affected countries and beyond.

LEARN

Training and capacity development are provided to help countries and a variety of stakeholders to mitigate current and future crises while averting potentially-destabilising conflicts and migration in a well-informed manner.

DIALOGUE

The information and understanding that WPS generates is used to bring together stakeholders at international, national and sub-national levels. This contributes to mitigating tensions and paving the way for agreed and informed solutions.

ACT

These tools and approaches enable decision makers, communities and investors to ACT timely and adequately to water related security threats.



The Water, Peace and Security partnership is a collaboration among an expanding group of organisations supported by The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Current partners are: IHE Delft (lead), World Resources Institute, Deltares, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, Wetlands International, International Alert. In addition, the consortium collaborates with a growing number of other institutes, such as: the Oregon State University, the Pacific Institute and New America.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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