

Water, Peace & Security Initiative

The Hague

Over the last few years, leading institutions from the World Economic Forum to the U.S. intelligence community and the Dutch army have raised a red flag regarding the social, economic and peace and security threats arising from increasing threats to water security in the world. The High Level Panel on Water on 22 March also recognized this nexus on water, peace and security and forced displacement and called for action. Water insecurity is becoming a worldwide problem, as 36% of the world population already live in water-scarce regions. With expected growing populations, urbanisation and increased economic demands for water, further exacerbated by ecosystem losses and climate change impacts, this problem will increase to unprecedented levels. It is becoming an urgent risk for livelihoods, economies and even global stability. The Water, Peace and Security Initiative (WPSI) works on practical approaches to facilitate evidence-based actions that can reduce water related security risks.

Act now!

Although the exact relations between water, human security, and social stability are not yet fully understood, action can and should not wait. We have enough knowledge to act. Rapid advances in global modelling, big data and satellite imagery increasingly allow for unprecedented early warning and analysis of water-related societal impacts. These can inform politicians, investors and communities to take the right action now. The international community should use this information available to decide on when, where and how to take action.

The Water, Peace and Security Initiative: using data to enable action to prevent water related security threats.

The Water, Peace and Security Initiative (WPSI) is a pioneering the use of new information tools, that process global and open data into meaningful information, to trigger and support preventive action. Early warning signals will be provided through an online, freely accessible website to show where and when risks are on the rise. In parallel, decision support tools and approaches are developed for more detailed assessment of high risk areas to explore, with stakeholders, alternative options for reducing risks.

New insights from these information tools will be used to trigger timely, evidence-based and negotiated actions. For this purpose, we will engage key stakeholders at global, regional and local level, such as governments, investors, international organisations, (I)NGOs, CSOs and private sector actors. Training programmes will be

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developed to suit the needs of those willing to act. Dialogue and negotiations can be informed and facilitated, to come to agreed solutions.

Water peace and security: Understand – Mobilize – Learn – Negotiate – Act!

The WPSI is a collaboration between a group of organisations, supported by The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Present partners are: IHE Delft (lead), WRI, Deltares, HCSS, Wetlands Int, International Alert. Support is given by Oregon State University and Pacific Institute. The group is open to further collaboration and exchange. A first pilot deep dive will be carried out in 2018 in Mali, a second pilot is planned to start in 2019.