



Water for Peace ! But peace doesn't come naturally from water cooperation

Without access to water, there can be no peace. But the opposite is also true: without peace, water will remain under threat. So we need to see the weaponization of water at Libya, Yemen, and in Ukraine



"Water for Peace" is the theme of this year's World Water Day. On the first official World Water Day, March 22, 1993, more than 21% of people worldwide lacked access to safe drinking water. Today, despite the investment of hundreds of billions dollars in water, sanitation, and hygiene, 2.2 billion people—or roughly 27% of the 8.1 billion people on the planet—still don't have access to safely managed drinking water. The water crisis is not just a human crisis, it's a planetary crisis, with freshwater ecosystems under immense threat. We must do better.

The historical competition for water resources dates back millennia, tracing its roots to the settlement of human communities. Water is also seen as a potential entry point for peacebuilding. But peace doesn't come naturally from water cooperation. If joint resource management and water diplomacy are to contribute to improved relations between riparian states or user groups,

involved actors, such as communities, non-governmental organisations, diplomats, or the international community, must carefully craft such peace-promoting measures.

Approaches to technical water cooperation must be accompanied by efforts to foster political will for broader cooperation. For this, technical measures need to be better integrated with other peace efforts and diplomatic initiatives so that trust at the technical level can also spill-over into other policy areas..

Where water cooperation goes beyond data exchange and actually achieves fair and sustainable resource utilization, it can contribute to more peace between conflicting parties. However, water will make the greatest contribution to global peace when it ensures food security and access to clean drinking water for the poorest parts of the world's population. This requires defending these basic social needs against commercial interests as well as strategic plans from the international community

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Water for Peace



This year, World Water Day focuses on the theme 'Water for Peace', emphasising the important role of water in promoting harmony and preventing conflict. According to the United Nations, water can be both a source of unity and a point of contention between communities – especially when access to water is unequal or scarce. The organisation itself presents an alarming statistic: only 24 countries that share rivers, lakes and aquifers with their neighbours have cooperation agreements on shared water resources.



Leveraging Water for Peace.

WORLD WATER DAY
22 March 2024

With the increasing impacts of climate change, there is a need to promote the union among countries to work together to conserve the Earth's most important natural resource. When we cooperate on water, we create a **positive cascade effect** across society that generates prosperity and builds resilience to challenges. It is in this context that the 2024 World Water Day campaign focuses on international cooperation.

the key messages of World Water Day 2024



Water can create peace or trigger conflict: it can increase tensions between nations with different needs and interests – especially in a water-scarce region. On the other hand, water can be a catalyst for peace at all levels if an integrated and inclusive approach is taken.



Prosperity and peace depend on water: bilateral transboundary water cooperation must be at the heart of governments' plans.



Water can get us out of a crisis: UN water conventions, in addition to local actions, exist to unite countries around the same goal of overcoming crises.

Source: <https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/world-water-day>



Top 8 Water Management Trends & Innovations in 2024



Are you curious about which water management trends & startups will soon impact your business? Explore our in-depth industry research on 3700+ water management startups & scaleups and get data-driven insights into technology-based solutions in our Water Management Innovation Map!

In recent years, owing to climate change and the growing population, responsible water management has become a top priority worldwide. Technological transformations are digitalizing conventional processes in water utilities, thereby bringing data-driven intelligence for better-informed policies.

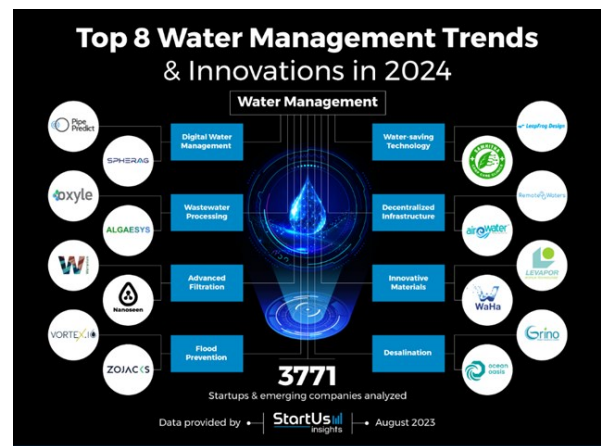


To tackle water scarcity, water management startups are advancing technology trends for desalination, wastewater processing, and water-saving technologies. Furthermore, advanced filtration and innovative materials turn existing methods for water recovery and reuse into sustainable and cost-effective solutions. Decentralized water infrastructure is improving access to drinking water in remote areas. Finally, novel technologies go beyond mere water conservation. For example, water management solutions combine flood prevention with water safety and reuse.

Innovation Map outlines the Top 8 Water Management Trends & 16 Promising Startups

For this in-depth research on the top global decarbonization trends and startups, we analyzed a sample of 3771 global startups & scaleups. This data-driven research provides innovation intelligence that helps you improve strategic decision-making by giving you an overview of emerging technologies and trends in the water management industry. In the Water Management Innovation Map, you get a comprehensive overview of the innovation trends & startups

Top 8 Water Management Trends in 2024



Digital Water Management

Wastewater Processing

Advanced Filtration

Flood Prevention

Water-saving Technology

Decentralized Infrastructure

Innovative Materials

Desalination



Source : <https://www.startus-insights.com/innovators-guide/water-management-trends/>

Transboundary water management is becoming more complex due to climate changes.

Only 2.5% of the water on earth is freshwater resources. However, the rate of usable freshwater resources in the world is below 1%.

In the last century, the world's population has tripled while water use has increased sevenfold. Water resources management is multi-purpose in every aspect. In water resources management, there are conflicting interests among users in the main sectors of socio-economic life (agriculture, industry, drinking water).

Competition over water resources occurs at local, regional, national, and international levels and among various users and stakeholders. Disputes regarding transboundary waters may be political, economic, environmental, or legal. Climate change is increasing the complexity of transboundary water management. Therefore an alternative water management concept is needed. This study aims to explain this emerging need



Climate Change and Transboundary Water Management

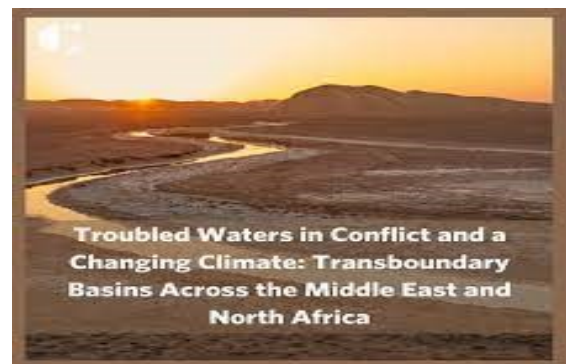


Transboundary water agreements are agreements that regulate the management of a common water resource, usually between two or more countries. Such agreements often involve water resources in rivers, lakes, or watersheds.

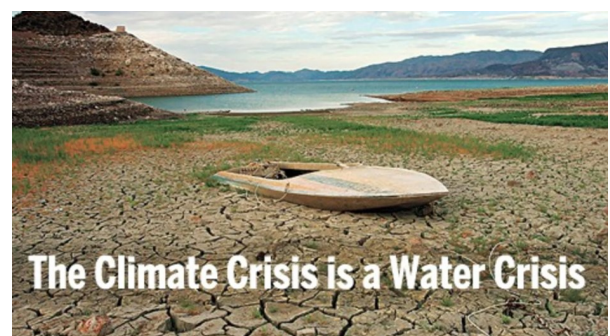
Climate change changes the amount and distribution of water resources by affecting precipitation regimes and temperature patterns, and this also has an impact on transboundary water resources. Increasing droughts and floods related to climate change make the implementation of transboundary water agreements difficult and the management of water resources more complex

The adverse impact of climate change on water resources is increasing in some parts of the world. This situation causes water resources to be needed and demanded more at local, national, and international levels. Therefore, the need to review transboundary water agreements and reorganize the use and management of transboundary water resources is also increasing.

In addition, the decrease or increase in water resources directly affects sectors such as the environment, agriculture, and energy production. This situation also requires reviewing the sharing rules in transboundary water agreements.



Considering the risk of climate change in transboundary water agreements, it is necessary to add flexibility and adaptation mechanisms to the transboundary water agreements. Transboundary water basins, especially those that have physical water problems and disputes between riparian countries, should be examined in terms of climate change's adverse effects. Climate change scenarios in these basins should be examined and solutions suitable for these scenarios should be developed. These are very important for the long-term sustainability of agreements.





Water for Peace Lost: Israel's War on Gaza Exacerbating Water Scarcity

96%

Drop in Average Water consumption per capita due to War on Gaza



81% of households in Gaza lack access to sufficient clean water

2 liters/person/day is the average water consumption for all domestic needs

341 person share 1 toilet

1292 person share 1 shower



57% of assessed WASH facilities are damaged



40% of the water networks in Gaza Strip were destroyed



83% of groundwater wells are not operating

Statistics as of 20 March 2024

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We need to build a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

HPA

Think Forward . Lead Forward