



GLOBAL WATER INSTITUTE

GWl is the most highly valued institution for its pioneering action in the reintegration of ex-combatants through water- related programs.

GWl's Headquarters and the Executive Direction for its affiliates' offices are based in Brussels, Belgium.



“There is still enough water for all of us, but only so long as we keep it clean, use it more wisely and share it

“ ”

About

GLOBAL WATER INSTITUTE

In an era of ever-changing global environment and its challenges, the Global Water Institute (GWI) provides strategic insights on leadership by promoting a unique approach linking water-related programs and environmental security.

GWI is an international non-governmental organization which provides water-related services for environmental security, societal well-being and stability.

GWI's mission is to assist post-conflict countries in environmental security and societal stability by training and working with ex-combatants in the field of water resources.

GWI strives to remain the most highly valued institution for its pioneering and specialized action in the reintegration of ex-combatants through water-related programs.

Founded in 2008 at the height of both the global water and global financial crises, GWI is dedicated to the simple but urgent goal of remediating to the dual issue of global warming and unemployment of the demobilized forces and ex-combatants in post-conflict countries, by contributing to their reintegration and thereby enabling civilians to live peacefully while coping with the issue of water insecurity.

GWI conducts research and analysis and develops policy initiatives aiming at bringing peace and population stability. One of GWI's mandates is to attract a large network of affiliated scholars focusing their expertise on water and sanitation, environmental protection, conflict prevention and peace-building, sustainable development, environmental security and human stability.

While GWI programs have the ultimate goal of preventing social conflicts and consolidating regional peace by reintegrating demobilized forces, it also calls upon democratic participation, including deprived populations, in its water-related programs.

GWI's core activities are made possible by the generous support of governments, organizations and individual donors.

GWI does not take specific policy positions, accordingly, all views expressed in any publications or on its website should be understood to be solely those of the author(s).

1. Water : A Global Problem

The question of the water security is becoming more and more troublesome. The official report is simple; already precarious in certain areas of the world, the water situation will only get worse in the years to come. The tremendous population boom which our planet will experience in the next decades will be coupled with an explosion in the consumption of water and degradation in its quality and quantity.

The figures are alarming : a billion people in the world do not have access to drinking water and two billion do not have an adequate sanitation system, causing enormous problems to public health. Each year, five million people, mostly children under 5 years of age, fall victim to illnesses directly related to polluted water.

Water scarcity brings into play fundamental questions relative to the right to live, human and social rights and the area of the common good. Its unequal distribution creates crucial problems to democracy and power in contemporary societies, on a local level as much as a global level.

All over the world, water is fundamental to our lives. Water is intricately linked to environmental security, human stability, and large scale socioeconomic development. Water-related issues carry significant environmental, societal and economic burdens.

Global warming poses a substantial threat to the world's water security as well and has contributed to water stress, drought, desertification and hunger. Its effects are already felt worldwide, but developing countries are the hardest hit.

Some of the challenges these countries face involve rapid population growth and migration from neighboring countries due to internal or inter-regional conflict. These burdens further increase the potential for conflict within and between states.



Preserving and safeguarding water as well as protecting the environment is a good strategy for societal stability worldwide, yet more specifically in areas prone to conflict.



2. Water for the prevention of conflict

Throughout the world, internal and inter-regional conflicts have erupted and could erupt again intensively as the increasing water scarcity raises the stakes. Though globally important, people living in Africa can be the first to define water as one of the most strategically imperative issue of the continental time that could lead to conflict.

A number of public and private organizations have invested much time and effort in diversified thoughts and actions intended to consolidate peace, human and environmental security in post-conflict countries. Although most stakeholders acknowledge that the unequal distribution of natural resources, such as water, can trigger social conflict, few institutions to date have considered using these resources as a driving tool to prevent conflict and develop sustainable economy.

Even fewer organizations see the urgent need for using water which is becoming an acute issue on the African continent, particularly in post-conflict countries, for the reintegration of demobilized forces. Indeed, this group might be the first population's segment to revolt and provoke an aggregated social conflict if their socioeconomic conditions were not improved.

While the world policy leaders acknowledge that water is central to human security, using water-related programs for the reintegration of demobilized forces has never been implemented as a policy for the prevention of conflict before GWI's initiative in 2008.

Using water programs to promote the socioeconomic reintegration of demobilized forces is a strategy with multiple effects that include: human security, environmental security and sustainability, population's stability, and economic prosperity.

Using water-related programs for the reintegration of demobilized forces in post-conflict countries becomes a driving tool for stabilization, securitization and sustainable development.

GWI's initiative is a holistic approach linking water and sustainable reintegration of demobilized forces to ensure effective environmental security and human stability for a scalable economic development.



While GWI programs have the ultimate goal of preventing social conflict and consolidating regional peace by reintegrating demobilized forces, it also calls upon democratic participation including deprived populations in its water-related programs.

GWI acts as a catalyst, advocate and trainer in the consolidation of interstate peace and water resource management.



3. Sharm El-Sheikh African leaders' Commitment on Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa

Heads of States and Government of the African Union (AU) gathered during the African Union's eleventh ordinary session held in 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. They recognized that water must remain key to sustainable development in Africa and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development. They reaffirmed their commitments to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa; and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on water supply and sanitation. They also agreed to promote effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programs.

GWI aligns its mission and objectives with respect to the AU and the MDGs mandates on water and conflict prevention programs. Consequently, GWI conducts research and analysis and develops policy initiatives aiming at bringing peace and populations' stability.

4. GWI's Overall Strategy: "Water Access by All"

To achieve a sustainable economic development there is a need to take into account, inter alia, two fundamental elements: *human security* and *environmental security*. Ensuring these two factors could lead to the population's stability, conflict prevention and prosperous economies.



@V. Ndaruzaniye.

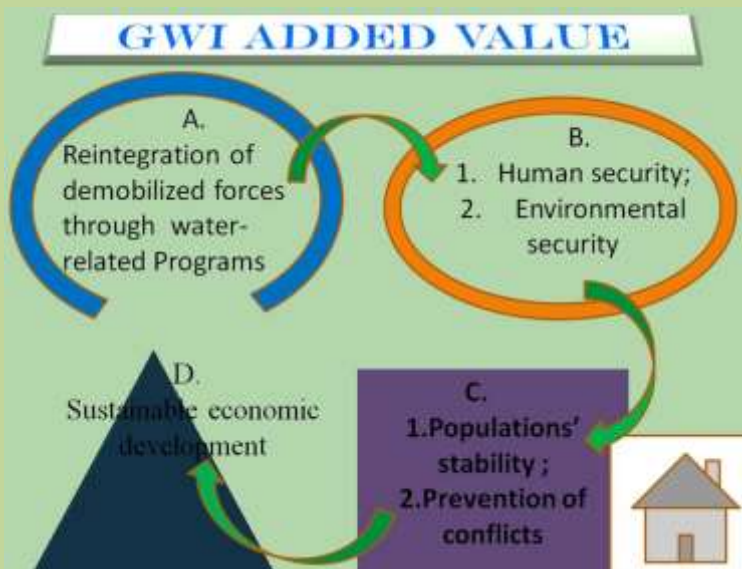
Nature inspires humans with ways to guarantee their human security which includes, inter alia, people's freedom of speech. Here, a British national antenna built inside a fake plastic tree to protect it against abusers.

GWI's suggested strategy is to exploit the enormous potential of demobilized forces that have gone to war, learned strategies and showed their determination with much courage. It is a proof of their ability to obey, to work in teams and to acquire training within a new strategic professional orientation.

GWI proposes to re-channel this potential force for development of water-related programs and protection of the environment, thereby appreciating what this particular group has as intrinsic resources. These two problems of water access and socioeconomic reintegration of demobilized forces could find a common solution.

The protection of the environment and its security can be achieved only if the inclusion demobilized forces and other marginalized groups are included in water-related programs to make water accessible by all. On one hand, allowing access to water to all means supplying households and public places with water, adequate sanitation and better hygiene.

On the other hand, human stability and security can only be acquired if quality programs tailored for social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants are given high priority on the agenda of national, regional and international policy makers.



5. GWI and AU team up for Securing the Environment Using Water-Related Programs

GWI, with support of the African Union, proposed a new concept in 2009 to secure the environment and stabilize populations by using water-related programs to reintegrate demobilized forces.

The concept is meant to help communities, international policymakers and practitioners to conceptualize and prioritize policy responses to the prevention of social conflicts in post-conflict countries.

GWI and AU teamed up to encourage policymakers to direct more efforts towards examining inter-linkages between two deep rooted issues that include water insecurity and the ineffective reintegration of the demobilized forces.

GWI believes that a common solution to solve the issues of the access to water and the sustainable reintegration of demobilized forces is possible. Such a strategy can lead to long lasting peace, effective conflict prevention and sustainable development. Thus, by providing a common solution to both issues, the concept becomes an essential part of the prevention of conflicts' recidivism in post-conflict countries.

The concept is also geared towards assisting the planning and coordination efforts of public and private institutions, local communities and civil societies, in water-related programs and in the reintegration of demobilized forces.

GWI's concept is not a military plan with a checklist of mandatory political activities. Rather, it offers a starting point to both civilians and ex-combatants for considering what needs to be done in water-related programs to ensure the populations' stability and security of the natural resources which they all ought to share and, consequently, prevent conflict.



6. Partnership

GWI continues to promote its unique concept of water and environmental security through a wide network of partnerships with public and private entities around the globe. Such partnerships are highly estimated as they greatly contribute to the core valued success of GWI's main objectives. In the last three years, GWI has made possible the establishment of GWI chapters in Zambia, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Togo.

Since 2009, GWI has partnered with AU to organize its symposium as well as roundtables and conferences to encourage farsighted and creative thinking about transformational diplomacy. GWI's high-level meetings spurred inter-agency continuous dialogue between GWI staff members, African diplomatic representatives, African governments, senior EU government officials and members of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

GWI has support of various public African agencies, individual members of the European Parliament and a number of leaders of international organizations. In early 2009, GWI has collaborated with the Executive Direction of ex-combatants in the Ministry of Defence and the "Centre d'encadrement et développement des anciens combattants" (CEDAC). GWI is also partner with Global Water and the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy in the United States of America.

GWI-Belgium's staff kicked off 2014 by leading a workshop lecture to 80 military highly- graded at the Royal Military Academy (RMA) in Brussels. GWI is the first non-governmental organization that has gained the privilege and trust to work in partnership with RMA for the training of particular military groups.

7. Managing, Coordinating and Mobilizing Funds

Managing, coordinating and mobilizing funds are cross-cutting functions that are critical to understanding and implementing policies for post-conflict reconstruction. There is no one single sub-system that can reach targeted results on its own without the implication of the other dimensions in addressing water needs and reinsertion-related needs for former combatants.

Laying the foundation for social justice in terms of fair distribution of water and aiding demobilized forces to return to their original communities must be a concerted function involving different policymakers and practitioners. The success of each individual program within the alignment depends on the coordination put in place.

GWI is strategically member of such a framework. Its mandate, roles and new activities are synchronized with the various stakeholders working with AU and African Governments in the post-conflict reconstruction in the African continent.

8. Global Water Institute

In an era of ever-changing global environment and its challenges, the Global Water Institute (GWI) provides strategic insights on leadership in the promotion of a unique approach linking water related-programs and environmental security. GWI strives to remain the most highly valued institution for its pioneering and specialized action in the reintegration of ex-combatants through water related programs.

GWI's objectives

- The prevention of social instability by the sustainable reintegration of demobilized forces
- The improvement of access to water for the populations

GWI's specific objectives

- The training of demobilized forces in water management
- Access to water in public places such as schools, health centers and public markets
- Protection and preservation of natural water resources
- The harvesting and use of rain water
- The treatment of used water/recycled water
- School training to trainers in water, sanitation & hygiene
- The implementation of a collective and concerted management of water involving demobilized forces, communities and local authorities
- The promotion of alternative agriculture
- The promotion of national policies for the right to water

GWI engages the university and academic world to undertake studies and scientific research on the issue of water access and the sustainable reintegration of demobilized forces.

GWI cooperates with military training institutions specialized in water-related programs to organize training for demobilized forces.

GWI's expected results

- An increase in the number of reintegrated demobilized forces and the improvement of their socio-economic conditions
- An increase in the percentage of the population with access to water

- An increase in the number of households, primary schools and public places with access to water
- A decrease in maternal, infant and juvenile mortality rates
- A decrease in the amount of violence against women
- A decrease in the rate of prevalence of HIV

GWI's assets

- GWI has created a new concept to develop water-related projects by reintegrating demobilized forces
- GWI possesses a good knowledge of intervention zones
- The active members of GWI have expertise in the execution of water-related programs and international affairs
- The privileged location of its headquarters in Brussels allows it to mobilize funds for intervention more easily
- GWI's headquarters in Brussels, allows several young academicians specializing in Environmental Security, Water Security Policies and International public relations to receive their first training within the Organization.

A young and dynamic team with experience

Through GWI's activities in advocacy, dialogue processes with ex-combatants and local communities, and government's relations, training, occasional Academic lecturing, research and publications, GWI's staff members continue to look at all key global water challenges and their implications on overall Africa's good governance, Africa's development, human security, and global water security and environmental security.

GWI's own resources

- Memberships
- Consulting services
- Financial contributions from public and private organizations
- GWI boutiques
- Donations and legacies

CONTACT

If you would like to make a donation,
invest in GWI or volunteer,
contact us.



Global Water Institute
Rue d'Edimbourg, 26
1050 Bruxelles
gwi@gwiwater.org
www.gwiwater.org



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