

WORLD Resources Institute

WATER & GLOBAL SECURITY

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GLOBAL SURFACE WATER STRESS





15,000 CATCHMENTS. DEMAND-SUPPLY BALANCE BY SECTOR.

WATER STRESS (RCP85/SSP3) 2040



AQUEDUCT





THE RISE OF BOKO HARAM IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION OF THE SAHEL

Increasingly stressed water and productive land resources in the Lake Chad region has put a strain on livelihoods, triggered destabilizing migration, and made the area ripe for recruitment by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram.



Changes in the Lake Chad system, as shown in satellite images over time. Blue areas in each image show open water. These satellite images clearly show the water is receding and the lake is shrinking (United States Geological Survey).

THE DARFUR CONFLICT IN WESTERN SUDAN

Many other factors helped trigger the conflict, but it was prolonged drought conditions and desertification in Darfur in the 1980s and 1990s – together with population growth – that precipitated a sharp decline in food production and unsettled long-standing agreements between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers, bringing the crisis to a head.



FOOD PRICE SPIKES & THE ARAB SPRING (2010-11)

In 2011, food prices spiked again, this time because of the 2010 droughts in Russia, Ukraine, China and Argentina and torrential storms in Canada, Australia and Brazil. The Middle East and North Africa region is one of the top food importers of the world, and is thus highly vulnerable to changes in food supplies and food prices. Some experts believe that the 2011 food price spike helped usher in the Arab Spring.





THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR (2011 -)



NASA's GRACE satellites saw major groundwater losses in the Tigris and Euphrates river basins between 2003 and 2009



Current Crisis: East Africa



http://www.fews.net/

Current crisis: "Day Zero" in Cape Town, SA



Current crisis: Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam



Current crisis: targeting Yemen's water infrastructure



A water and security taxonomy

- 1. Catastrophic drought in failed states (e.g. Somalia)
- 2. Rising resource pressures in rain-fed agricultural regions (e.g. Lake Chad Basin)
- 3. Severe drought in chronically water-stressed (irrigated) regions (e.g. Syria)
- 4. Drought, over-abstraction, and/or water pollution in urban areas (e.g. Cape Town)
- 5. Dams and water diversions in the absence of agreement (e.g. Indus River Basin)
- 6. Droughts and/or floods contribute to food price spikes (e.g. 2011 global food price spike)
- 7. Use of water as a weapon or victim of war (e.g. Yemen)

There are many things we can do right now to improve prospects for a brighter future

- Develop robust data and information systems
- Cap water usage
- Employ water-efficient technologies and practices
- Plant water-efficient and drought resistant crops
- Identify cost-efficient ways to reduce pollution
- Expand green and gray water storage infrastructure
- Price water to cover costs and ongoing maintenance

- Improve water management and governance systems
- Implement interventions unique to dryland farming areas
- Reduce food loss and waste at each stage of the value chain:
 - Donate unmarketable crops
 - Invest in low-cost food storage technologies
 - Re-engineer manufacturing processes
 - Donate unsold food products
 - Reduce portion sizes
- Shift to less meatintensive/more vegetarian diets
- Reduce population growth

Water, Peace and Security Initiative (with IHE-Delft, Deltares, and The Hague Center for Strategic Studies)

- An online global early warning system for potential water-related threats to human security;
- An on-the-ground research protocol to further define the challenge and identify possible interventions;
- Training and capacity building modules to help developing countries cope with current and future crises and avert potential destabilizing conflict and migration;
- Water dialogues among key stakeholders at both international and sub-national levels, to try to diffuse tensions and pave the way for solutions.





Thank you ciceland@wri.org

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Risk C	ategories		Analyze		Add Location 🛛 🗲 Imp	oort 📄 Export
Overall Water Risk Physical Risk QUANTITY Physical Risk QUALITY				Regulatory & Reputational Risk	Projected Change	
		Country	Catchment	Overall Water Risk		
	Location Title			Overall Water Risk	Physical Risk QUANTITY	Physical Risk QUALITY
00	Location 1	Democratic Republic of the Congo	CONGO	2. Low to medium risk (1-2)	1. Low risk (0-1)	2. Low to medium risk
00	Location 3	India	INDUS	5. Extremely high risk (4-5)	5. Extremely high risk (4-5)	5. Extremely high risk

