

3. Strategic WASH partnerships for peace

3.1 Joint programming with UN agencies



UNICEF WASH teams can consider pursuing strategic partnerships with **UN agencies** that due to their mandate are well placed to complement and strengthen relevant capacity. For example, UNICEF has collaborated with UNDP in the WASH Accountability for Sustainability partnership²¹ and to measure social cohesion through the SCORE methodology²². UNICEF and UNDP have also partnered to develop online courses on ‘Local Governance for Sustaining Peace’ and ‘Youth, Peace and Security’ (*for more details see the Capacity Development Toolkit of the Guidance*). Collaboration around these key themes is also reflected in joint programmes where UNDP has partnered with UNICEF to support WASH sector good governance and social cohesion strengthening interventions in FCCs.

21 <https://www.unicef.org/documents/accountability-wash-explaining-concept>

22 <https://www.scoreforpeace.org/>

23 <https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/projects/un-joint-programme-on-local-governance-and-decentralized-service.html>

CASE STUDY



UN’s Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) in Somalia began in 2008 and continues to this day, implemented by UNICEF, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). As part of JPLG, UNICEF led efforts to pilot decentralized service delivery in line with the Puntland and Somaliland decentralization road maps. The Service Delivery Model (SDM) that was piloted supported districts to carry out devolved service delivery in the areas of WASH, health and education. This supports decentralized and accountable social services that contribute to strengthening vertical and horizontal social cohesion.²³

CASE STUDY



UNDP and UNICEF partner in Niger to improve sanitation in FCCS

In Niger, UNDP has partnered with UNICEF through their global Water Governance Reform. The project developed the national sanitation guide, under the guidance of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, and in collaboration with UNICEF, which has become the ‘go-to’ reference document for sanitation interventions. The project developed guidance for a local water and sanitation development plan (Plan Local de l’Eau et de l’Assainissement) to help municipalities analyse the water and sanitation status of their communes and prioritize investment. A total of 18 municipal water and sanitation development plans were validated. Following this support, the Government is currently developing an additional 80 local plans in all regions of the country.²⁴

Another example of a strategic UN partner to pursue peacebuilding WASH programming is UNHCR. The **blueprint for Joint Action**²⁴ guides a global WASH cooperation framework through which UNICEF and UNHCR support refugee integration into national services, including WASH. The agencies have jointly supported integrated host-refugee water utilities to strengthen horizontal social cohesion in East Africa - *for more details see section '3.3. WASH contributions to horizontal social cohesion' in the WASH for Peace – Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide.*

Strategic partnerships with **academic and research institutions** are supporting UNICEF to develop capacity and to generate valuable evidence and analytics to support WASH for Peace – for example UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office has partnered with the German Jordanian University to implement a Master's Programme in Humanitarian WASH²⁵; in Lebanon UNICEF has partnered with AUB's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (AUB-IFI) to identify hotspots in Lebanon with high water-related stress and water-related risk to conflict and to propose and prioritize action through WASH projects to mitigate risk and reduce tensions.²⁶

3.2 Tapping into WASH for peace funding

The concept of partnerships also extends to capture the fruitful relationships established with UNICEF WASH bilateral and multilateral donor partners that increasingly recognize the unique role that WASH interventions can play to strengthen resilience and build peace in FCCs – particularly in response to growing water insecurity.²⁷ Despite this increased awareness and commitment, the need to 'make the case' remains strong and efforts to identify and mobilize resources²⁸ to support conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding approaches to WASH must be supported by evidence and advocacy. The UNICEF WASH Resource Mobilization strategy recognizes a number of underfunded and priority areas to focus on 2022 and beyond, including **linking humanitarian, development and peacebuilding** activity and **Water Security for All**.²⁹ These areas potentially offer opportunities to reorient risk-informed and resilience building WASH in FCCs to pursue more explicit conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding approaches to resource mobilization strategies and action plans.

Donor mapping exercises by WASH Cluster Coordinators are a useful entry point to identify opportunities to leverage funds to support activities such as conflict analysis, the integration of risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approaches, and the integration of triple-nexus ways of working. This can support partnership

development efforts within the sector, including critically among national partners. In Palestine, the WCC carried out mapping in 2021 to provide orientation to WASH Cluster partners during the planning, design and implementation of their WASH interventions. The WCC targeted 30 donors through online surveys and discussions, and analysed data to identify:

- The intersections between each donor's strategy (development, building resilience, emergency response) for each WASH component.
- Funding opportunities and gaps in each WASH component.
- Donors' partnership preferences compared to Cluster partners' technical capacities.
- Funding modalities and cluster partner fundraising tools.

The findings revealed that WASH humanitarian donors in Palestine consider building resilience a main priority and a connecting bridge between humanitarian and development responses. This opens up space for Cluster partners to apply a triple nexus approach in their fundraising and response planning. In response, WASH donors can consider prioritizing support to programming that engages an integrated approach under a single funding instrument or envelope.³⁰

24 In 2020, UNHCR and UNICEF developed a Blueprint for Joint Action to accelerate joint efforts under a transformational agenda in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. The initial phase of the partnership focused on WASH, education, and child protection and was piloted in 10 countries Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Rwanda) – the partnership has been extended until the end of 2022; <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/unhcr-unicef-blueprint>

25 <http://www.gju.edu.jo/content/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash-msc-program-11637>

26 The partnership included Search for Common Ground, which complemented the mapping by targeting the identified hot spots in Baalbek and West Bekaa districts and drew community stakeholders together to explore their perceptions regarding possible, sustainable solutions to localized water-related conflicts. The study was ongoing at the time of writing – but important lessons about the methodology, partnership model, and the application of the findings can be elicited once it is finalized.

27 UNICEF, 'WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025', 2021, https://www.unicef.org/media/119056/file/WASH%20in%20the%20new%20UNICEF%20Strategic%20Plan_Summary.pdf; p. 37

28 At the time of writing, the WASH HQ Programme team, in close collaboration with a wide range of colleagues in COs, ROs, Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP), Public Partnership Division (PPD) and NatComs, are developing the WASH resource mobilization strategy, the first of its kind, with the intent to leverage the much-needed resources required to accelerate progress towards SDG 6. The objective of the WASH resource mobilization strategy is to empower UNICEF staff to engage in partnership discussions, with a specific focus on WASH, with governments, the private sector and financing institutions. This will help to make informed decisions about where best to focus UNICEF's WASH partnership efforts; see UNICEF, 'WASH in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025', 2021, https://www.unicef.org/media/119056/file/WASH%20in%20the%20new%20UNICEF%20Strategic%20Plan_Summary.pdf; p. 28

29 UNICEF, WASH Resource Mobilization Strategy, 2022; internal

30 Shared by WASH Cluster State of Palestine, WASH Donors Mapping Analysis 2021, pp. 2-3.

A recent review by UN Water of the donor landscape and funding opportunities identified the thematic and sectoral preferences of all major sector donors, including directly relevant focus (such as 'peace', 'water governance', 'water scarcity', 'DRR', and 'youth') that could be mobilised to support **risk-informed, resilient, conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding WASH investments**. Donors identified as supporting linkages between water and peace include Austria, Finland, France, Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. Table 9 gives an overview of its findings:

Table 9: UN Water's donor thematic and sectoral preferences overview³¹

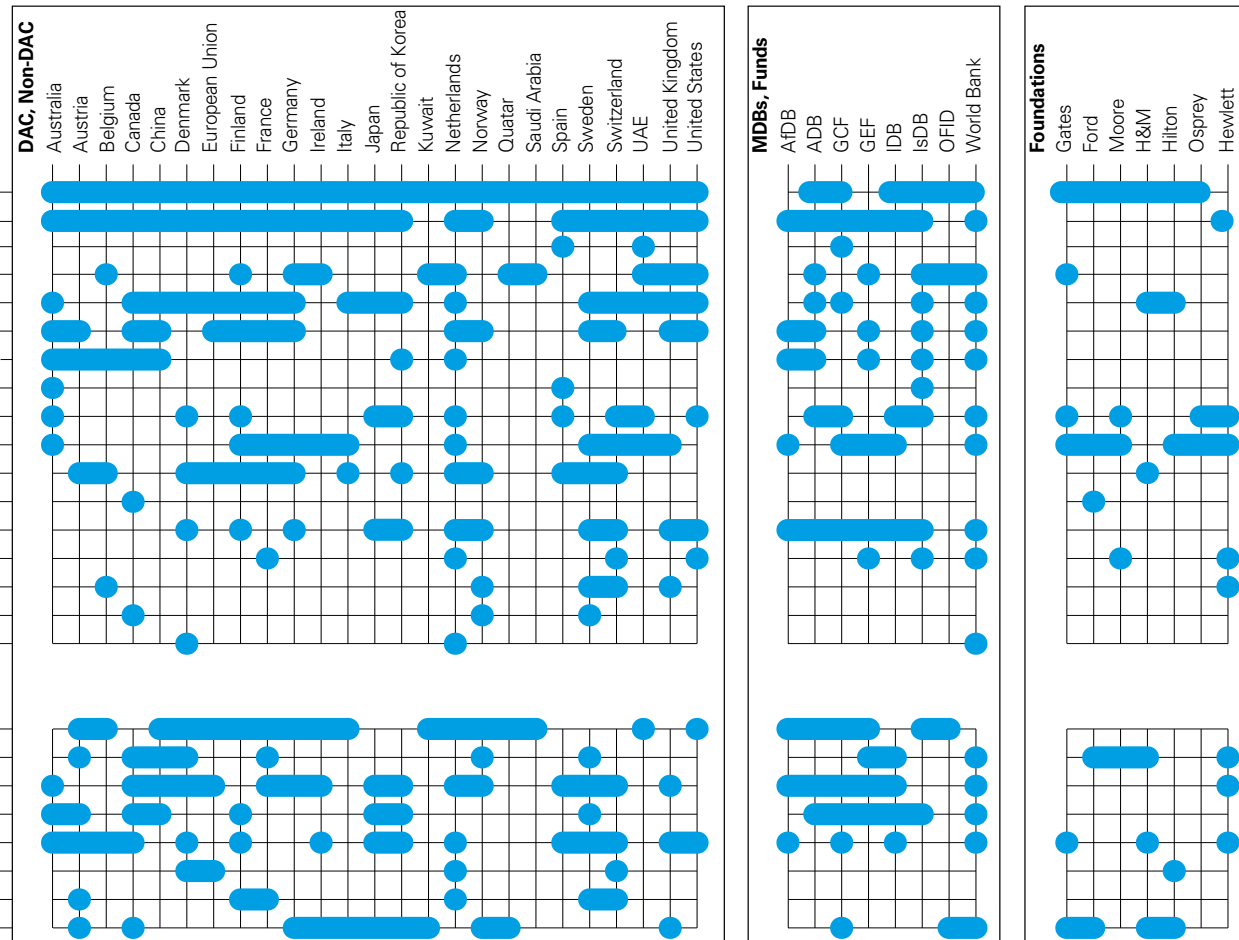
Donors water and sanitation priorities

Focus areas

- WASH
- WRM, water governance
- ...non-conventional WRM
- Water quality
- Water use efficiency
- Transboundary
- Flood and drought management
- Water scarcity
- Technology and innovation
- Data and monitoring
- Human rights to water
- ...indigenous rights to water
- Private sector participation
- Innovative financing
- Integrity, transparency
- Source-to-sea
- Valuing water

Water and sanitation linkages with other communities

- Water-energy-food nexus
- Environment
- Climate change
- DRR
- Gender
- Youth
- Peace
- Health



Note: The absence of a particular focus area does not mean it is absent from the donor's water and sanitation activity; rather, it indicates it is not a primary focus area based on reviewing the donor's strategic framework and policy. The same applies to the synergies with other sectors, which are limited to highlighting some of the significant linkages stated in donor's publications between their water and sanitation policy and the concerned sector. DRR=disaster risk reduction; UAE=United Arab Emirates; WRM=water resources management
Sources: Donor's websites and relevant policy documents

The below includes selected examples of WASH for Peace donor-supported initiatives that can inspire UNICEF WASH teams and partners to advocate and fundraise more strategically:

- **Finland's** Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Agriculture and Forestry support the **Finnish Water Diplomacy Network**, which consists of experts from ministries, academia and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The network ensures the engagement of relevant peace mediation and water actors and enables their expertise to be used for both rapid response and longer-term development aims. Internationally, Finland collaborates with state and non-state actors in developing activities related to water diplomacy. These activities enhance conflict analyses and mediation, joint initiatives and capacity-building, all of which strengthen conflict prevention.³²
- **Germany's** Development Cooperation Agency (BMZ), has a **'Building peace. Strengthening resilience'** strategy that explains how transitional development assistance contributes to peaceful and inclusive communities, including explicit links between conflict and water, and the role of WASH services to promote peace.³³ BMZ's 2017 **'Water Strategy Paper'** commits its development cooperation to leverage the "potential of water as a resource for reducing conflict and mitigating the causes of displacement".³⁴

31 UN Water: Resource Mobilization Guide; Working Draft Version February 2022; <https://www.unwater.org/app/uploads/2022/03/UN-Water-Resource-Mobilization-Guide-2022-02-17.pdf>; p. 11.

32 https://www.syke.fi/en-US/Research_Development/Research_and_development_projects/Projects/Water_Cooperation_and_Peace_Finnish_Water_Way

33 <https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/92428/factsheet-peaceful-and-inclusive-communities-ohne-bild.pdf>

34 <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/publications/publikationen-reihen/strategiepapier390-08-2017-23756>; p. 3

- **The Netherlands** Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) supports the **Water, Peace and Security initiative** to address how growing water insecurity is straining relations between people, communities and entire countries. With innovative tools and services, the WPS partnership helps stakeholders to identify and understand water-related security risks and take timely, informed and inclusive action to prevention and mitigate conflict. This includes technical support to the water authorities of countries affected by water insecurity.³⁵
- **Switzerland** through its Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) launched and supported the **Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace**, which has 15 member countries, and continues to support the implementation of its main recommendations. Through the **Blue Peace initiative** launched in 2010, Switzerland is supporting both cross-border cooperation and national platforms for dialogue on water access issues. Switzerland offers countries its support in managing their water resources more effectively and in reducing tensions between different users (private consumers, the energy industry, agriculture, etc.) at both the national and regional levels.³⁶

Funding must become more agile and adaptable to respond to complex and protracted crises, and strong WASH donor partnerships must strive to create space for experimental approaches that allow for innovation, learning by doing, and flexibility to support programme adaptation. The generation of evidence and the development of advocacy products can help to illustrate and support the need for such change.

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Advocating for flexible funding: UNICEF's 'Water Security for All' investment brief calls on the public and private sectors to fund WASH programming in FCCs flexibly to enable UNICEF and partners to direct investments where they are needed most to increase water security in the countries most affected. This funding gives experts the flexibility to target interventions that will have the best results and to adapt in a volatile and changing environment. It also recognizes that some partners need to designate their resources to a particular result area and proposes the development of strategic partnerships to respond to these opportunities for tailored collaboration. The publication includes useful facts and figures as well as key messages to support resource mobilization for conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH in FCCs.

35 <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/>

36 <https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/water/wasser-ein-element-der-sicherheit.html>

37 https://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/53555846.pdf

38 SWIFT Consortium, Implementing WASH programmes in a Payment by Results context, 2015, <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/582317/ml-swift-wash-payment-by-results-010815-en.pdf?sequence=1>; p. 7

39 SWIFT Consortium, Implementing WASH programmes in a Payment by Results context 2015, <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/582317/ml-swift-wash-payment-by-results-010815-en.pdf?sequence=1>; p. 7

CASE STUDY

Flexible funding partnerships to support conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH – The example of the payment by results (PbR) framework in FCCs



The former UK Department for International Development's (now FCDO) launched the 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Results Programme' (£111 million envelope implemented 2014–2021) aimed to bring equitable and sustainable water and sanitation services and hygiene practices to 4.5 million people in 11 countries. The programme was implemented by three supplier consortium (Oxfam, Tearfund, and the Overseas Development Institute) contracted under a payment by results (PbR) financing modality. The WASH Results Programme was one of the first large-scale applications of a PbR contracting modality in the sector. Suppliers had no upfront financing; 100 per cent of payments to suppliers were based on delivery of pre-specified 'results' which were independently verified by a third party. An external evaluation found that the programme was very successful in achieving its stated objectives.³⁸ A key advantage of such a financial model being applied to conflict-sensitive/peacebuilding WASH include the flexibility and space for innovation it may provide, by enabling activities to be changed provided results are achieved. In addition, the focus on sustainability and building resilience is in line with sector perceptions about what implementing partners should be aiming for with WASH programmes in fragile contexts.³⁹

The **increasing recognition among key donors of the links between climate change, water insecurity and conflict** have opened up new avenues for resource mobilization to support WASH for Peace investments, and specifically how climate finance can be leveraged to strengthen climate and conflict resilience in FCCs. Development banks, aid agencies and the private sector are the main sources of climate finance⁴⁰, a complex domain that the WASH sector has yet to significantly tap into.⁴¹

WASH teams in FCCs that can confidently and effectively frame these links and advocate for conflict- and climate-sensitive investments can unlock significant and potential new partnerships to support WASH for Peace – see *Programming Tool 6 – Guide to integrating climate resilience, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding for ideas*.

Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: UNDP has published a study Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace that explores the links between climate finance, conflict and fragility, and that identifies opportunities to leverage the co-benefits of climate action for peace and security to incentivize much-needed investments in FCCs.⁴² The study identified important elements to conflict-sensitize climate action, including the inclusion of conflict analysis that captures the “indirect contributions, or co-benefits of climate change adaptation to peacebuilding [that] are often neglected in such analysis and need to be better explored and documented to develop better programming”.⁴³



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⁴⁰ **Climate finance** refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change - <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/the-big-picture/introduction-to-climate-finance>; UNICEF's engagement in climate finance interrogates how child-sensitive finances flow from developed to developing countries to fight climate change. We question whether these flows are sufficient, new, and additional; and whether they consider the needs of children in developing countries - <https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/finance#Climate%20finance>.

⁴¹ For more information and resources on WASH sector and climate finance please see: <https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/knowledge-exchange/climate-finance-wash-africa-europe-middle-east-asia-pacific>

⁴² <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and#modal-publication-download>

⁴³ <https://www.undp.org/publications/climate-finance-sustaining-peace-making-climate-finance-work-conflict-affected-and#modal-publication-download>; p.17