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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Blue Peace Global

Geneva Water Hub – a Global Centre on water and peace

Region
Global

Partners
University of Geneva, UN actors and global actors from civil society, academia, river basin organisations, and the private sector.

Background information
The Hub supports scaling up the Blue Peace approach to the global level, promoting dialogue between political, socio-economic and thematic actors.

Project objectives Develop a hub of competence in hydro-politics to better understand and prevent water-related tensions between competing uses and political entities.

Beneficiaries
Political, UN, academic, civil society and private sector actors that can influence water, security and peace and implement concrete solutions at all levels.

Costs
Total: CHF 13'370'000
SDC: CHF 8,410,000

Duration
2023 – 2027

Contact
Section Water
water@eda.admin.ch

Globally, access to freshwater resources is dwindling due to growing demand, increasing pollution, and climate change. The Geneva Water Hub (GWH), co-hosted by the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute, is an international center of competence for transboundary water resources management. Through research, education, advocacy and mediation, the Hub addresses water insecurity in water scarce regions, and advances the positioning of water as a tool for peace, security, and cooperation in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

Sustainable water resources management is a global challenge of the 21st century, and is increasingly linked to insecurity at local, regional and global scale. This is illustrated by growing tensions around large dams, mining operations and various disputes over land and water.

Despite the complexity of the challenges, water can become a theme for collaboration and can be transformed from a source of potential crisis into an instrument of peace. It is with this positive vision that Switzerland is engaged in global water issues in partnership with UN organisations, bilateral partners and NGOs, to help prevent water conflicts at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation. In this context, the Geneva Water Hub, founded in 2014, has become a key platform for hydro-diplomacy, supporting initiatives such as the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and the 2021 agreement on the Senegalese–Mauritanian Aquifer Basin.

Geneva forms the most active centre of multilateral diplomacy worldwide and has become a recognised global center of expertise in areas highly relevant to hydropolitics and global water governance. In response to the wish expressed by many partners to federate the expertise available in Geneva, Switzerland is supporting, together with the University of Geneva, the functioning of this global centre as a hub of competence in hydro-politics and hydro-diplomacy, to promote water cooperation and good governance. In this context, the Geneva Water Hub has become a key platform advancing the hydro-politics agenda, offering facilitation, conciliation and mediation services, and helping to prevent water conflicts at an early stage. It has strengthened its role as a trusted actor in international water diplomacy, building strategic partnerships with governments, UN agencies and organisations such as IFRC and UNHCR, facilitating dialogue in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and contributing to the protection of water resources during armed conflict by bridging policy frameworks with operational practice.

In this current phase the Geneva Water Hub works towards five outcomes:

- Water-for-peace diplomacy is applied and operationalised;
- International policy and legal frameworks are shaped to advance water for peace;
- The capacity of actors to promote peace through water is strengthened;
- The legal framework on water in armed conflicts is strengthened and effectively implemented;
- Education and research on water and peace are advanced and actively driven by academia and practitioners globally.

Additional information: www.genevawaterhub.org