

BRIEFING NOTE

Water, energy, food & ecosystems – A vital nexus for #ZeroHunger in Africa

Water, energy, food, and ecosystems are essential for meeting basic human needs. But each one is coming under pressure, and climate change is making things worse.

GWP and Africa – a new programme

In Africa, people are most at risk if we don't deal with this challenge effectively. So Global Water Partnership (GWP) and African governments are joining forces to tackle water, energy, food, and ecosystems nexus challenges – vital sectors to human development.

GWP and allies will work in partnership to promote effective policies and actions at the local, country, and regional level, especially as they relate to food security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The programme builds on the New Partnership for Africa (NEPAD) and its implementation at country level and on the work of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and other agencies. It will also draw on the latest available research.

The programme has been certified by COP 21 as an effective contribution to combat climate change.

Governments and international development organizations have already demonstrated an understanding of the important links between water, energy, food, and ecosystems, and COP21 emphasized the importance of this nexus.

Resources have been invested in working towards security in these areas, but there is still a long way to go until these important components of the



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved, particularly in Africa.

Water is present – either explicitly or implicitly – in all the SDGs, and Food Security and Nutrition (SDG 2) have a particular link with water, which is the main input into agricultural production most at risk by climate change.

Reinforcing this link, the CFS addressed the importance of water and released a series of recommendations in 2015.

Addressing the issue in an integrated way

This Committee issued a call for action to all concerned players to work together towards achieving sustainable Food Security and Nutrition. This will be done through integrated and inclusive management of water and related sectors, having appropriate, empowered governance structures.

This applies to all sectors: an explicit part of SDG 17 recognizes that results can be achieved only through an integrated approach and engaging in partnerships at all levels.

How GWP can receive results

As a result of their positive experiences as part of GWP, water partners in Africa are now engaging at country, regional, and global levels with other sectors to address specifically the challenges of food security and nutrition.

After 20 years' experience of sharing knowledge, building relationships and effecting change in integrated water resources management, GWP's partners in Africa are ready for this new challenge.



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The partners have delivered amazing results, including GWP's successful involvement with pilot projects, regional agreements on transboundary river basins, national investment plans, and global advocacy.

It is a model that has shown itself to be effective in disseminating best practices – and it is one that can be expanded to cover broader challenges.

GWP's core approach is threefold: to work towards change, promote knowledge sharing, and strengthen partnerships.

By continuing to apply this proven formula, GWP believes it will have a positive impact on the integrated approach towards the management of the water, energy, food, and ecosystems nexus.

In so doing it will contribute to improvements in food security and better nutrition.

Building for the future

GWP conducted 9 country consultations in Africa in 2015 on the challenges for water and food security, based on the CFS High Level Panel of Experts' report on water and food security and nutrition.

These consultations initiated a strong multi-stakeholder approach between government, commercial, and other players. At a practical level, they identified specific country priorities in line with the CFS report recommendations.

This is the basis for the proposed programme for the next three years.

By collectively identifying the challenges at country level and formulating technical and institutional priorities, the end results are more likely to have a positive impact.

As a spin off, GWP's experience shows that strengthening the partnerships formed by this approach results in better, long-term, cross-sectoral collaboration.



Programme components

1. Enhancing regional cooperation
2. Supporting national policies and plans
3. Identifying priority “no/low regret” investments
4. Facilitating project preparation and fundraising
5. Pilot project
6. Capacity building and knowledge management

Time line (to be evolved)

January – March 2016

Identifying a programme addressing country priorities with regard to CFS recommendations on water and Food Security and Nutrition with a nexus approach.

March – June 2016

Presenting the initiative to implementing partners and stakeholders at country, regional, global levels. Consolidating the programme with partners' inputs.

Key events: Pan African workshop to elaborate and adopt the draft program. Discussion of the programme in Regional Meetings.

June – December 2016

Consolidating the programme with partners' inputs. Raising funds for implementation.

Getting ready for implementation: preparing partnership and financial agreements, identifying best administrative and logistical arrangements at country and regional levels.

Key events: Presentation of the programme and expected outputs at UN CFS 43. Adoption of final programme by GWP global Board.

2017

Start of implementation