

WATER & PEACE

**4th Istanbul
International
Water Forum**

**OUTCOMES &
MESSAGES**

4th Istanbul International Water Forum WATER & PEACE | 10 -11 MAY 2017



ABOUT

4th Istanbul International Water Forum

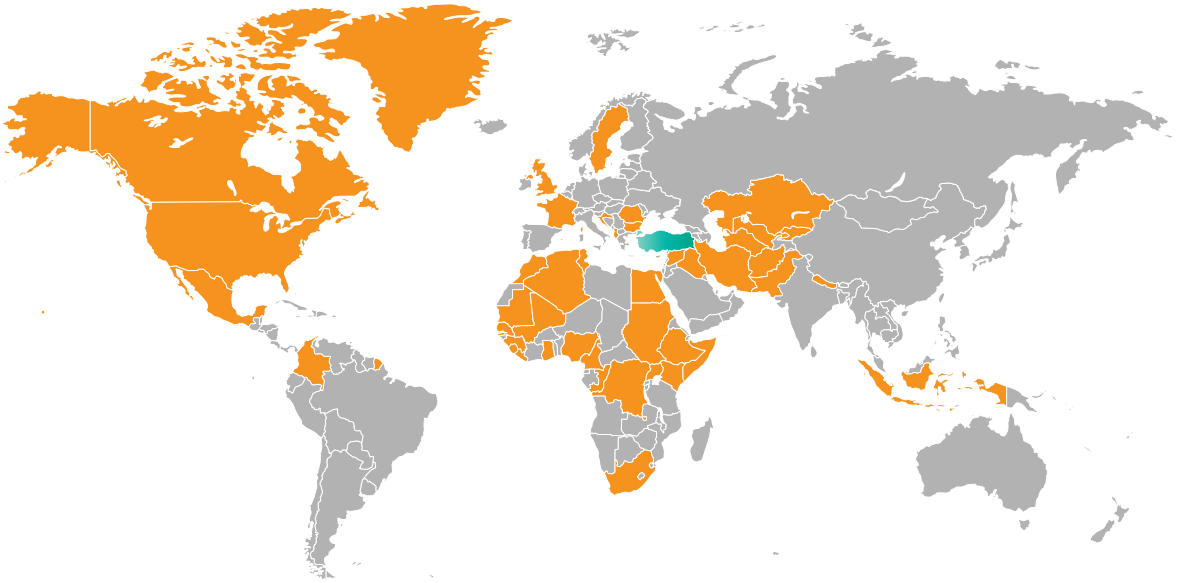
The last decade has brought along a significant increase in the number of people fleeing wars and conflict zones. The impacts of population mobility are felt both in conflict zones and in host countries. Mass population mobility not only carries water issues to the global humanitarian agenda but also affects how water is used and managed. From this point on, the 4th Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF), organised by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on May 10-11, 2017 in Istanbul, focused on the current refugee issue under the central theme of “*Water and Peace*” and addressed the water-related issues that have arisen by demographic pressures resulting from displacement with their humanitarian, theoretical, financial and legal aspects.

FORUM THEMATIC SESSIONS

Session 1	Water for Peace
Session 2	Implementing and Monitoring Water-Related SDGs in Turbulent Times and Areas
Session 3	Getting the Best Out of Water Relief Actions: Case Studies and the Legal Basis
Session 4	Urban Water Management in Response to Demographic Pressures
Special Session	Syrians under Temporary Protection in Turkey and Water Management

NUMBERS

4th Istanbul International Water Forum



1.700 Participants from 65 countries | 4 Thematic Panels
1 Special Session | 70 Panellists | 11 Side Events



International Organizations Participated in the Forum



KEY MESSAGES and OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM

- **A New Nexus: Water and Peace:** There is an urgency to address the nexus between water and peace more directly within the efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security. A multi-level and multitrack approach is needed to identify water cooperation spaces to extend peace at regional and international level.
- **WASH assistance is a priority:** Priority has to be given to immediate tasks such as WASH assistance to refugees and other populations in vulnerable situations. Longer term tasks, have to be pursued steadily and with a vision of their importance for the strengthening of international stability and peace.
- **A direct funding mechanism is needed:** Meeting the needs of refugees facing the risk of lack of access to water and sanitation services due to conflicts requires strong policies, cooperation and financing. An international funding mechanism is needed directly and only for the WASH needs of people under vulnerable conditions including refugees.
- **Sharing the responsibility is key:** Water supply for rapidly increasing population due to refugee flows is not an easy task for governments and local administrations of the host countries. Refugee crisis is not an issue to be dealt alone by host countries, responsibility should be shared by the international community.
- **Increasing self-sufficiency of refugees:** Job opportunities and social integration policies in protracted refugee situations are needed to increase the self-sufficiency capacity of refugees. The actors of international community should join their forces to enhance self-sufficiency of refugees in order to decrease the burden on host countries.
- **Implementation and monitoring of the SDGs is important:** There are clear interlinkages between migration and the SDGs with a specific focus on SDG6 in the context of refugee receiving countries, transition zones and home countries. Implementation mechanisms of the Agenda 2030 needs to be flexible and facilitating in order to tackle with unforeseen challenges. Vulnerable groups including refugees should be prioritized in the implementation of the SDG6 to meet the targets by 2030.
- **A shift from crisis management to risk management is needed:** In post-crisis times, needs are beyond investments. A strong structure for effective risk management in order to avoid vulnerability necessitates stability, political will and successful governance.
- **Rethinking water management in refugee camps and urban areas:** The cost of WASH services should be lowered in camps by using proper technologies (waste water reuse, recycling, solar energy, etc.) and governance approaches through cross sectoral coordination, regulatory frameworks, new financing models, trade-offs and monitoring activities. In urban areas, migration induced changes need to be integrated into the planning processes for sustainable water management.

Stay connected for the 5th Istanbul International Water Forum in 2020!



Videos of thematic sessions
are available on SUEN's
official YouTube page.



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