Water: Impacts on people working in food supply chains

A guide for FNET members, January 2025

FNET

FOOD NETWORK FOR ETHICAL TRADE

FNET

FOOD NETWORK FOR ETHICAL TRADE

Guide objectives

- To give an overview of some of the key human rights risks that are related to water in and around supply chains
- To share case studies on how some companies have tackled or become more aware of issues that relate to water and human rights
- To identify some practical tools for assessing and mitigating risk

The practical insights for identifying, assessing risk and taking action were drawn from presentations and discussions in the FNET Climate & Human Rights working group and an FNET all member day discussions and presentations throughout 2024. A useful resource to accompany this briefing is the FNET Climate & Human Rights Due Diligence Guide 2024, that illustrates how to integrate environmental factors in business' human rights due diligence.

The information collected in this briefing reflects "a moment in time" and the intention is to continue to build on knowledge and share experience on implementing best practice on water issues that impact people in food supply chains.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Bev Hall, and members of the FNET Climate & Human Rights working group for their contributions.

Photography: www.pexels.com

Contents

Background

Water, food and climate change

Global water supply is increasingly threatened by climate change, with rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns leading to more frequent droughts, floods, and shifts in freshwater availability. Many regions, especially in arid areas, face water scarcity, while others struggle with water quality due to pollution and contamination. Climate change exacerbates these issues, reducing the reliability of water sources, stressing agricultural and industrial water use, and threatening ecosystems. As a result, millions of people worldwide are vulnerable to water shortages, food insecurity, and health risks, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable water management and climate action.

Agriculture is the largest consumer of the world's freshwater resources with 72% of all freshwater withdrawals used by this sector[1]. By 2050 global food production would need to increase by 50% to feed the more than 9 billion people projected to live on our planet[2]. The case for urgent and initiative-taking water stewardship is increasingly a pressing issue for businesses, communities and governments to address.

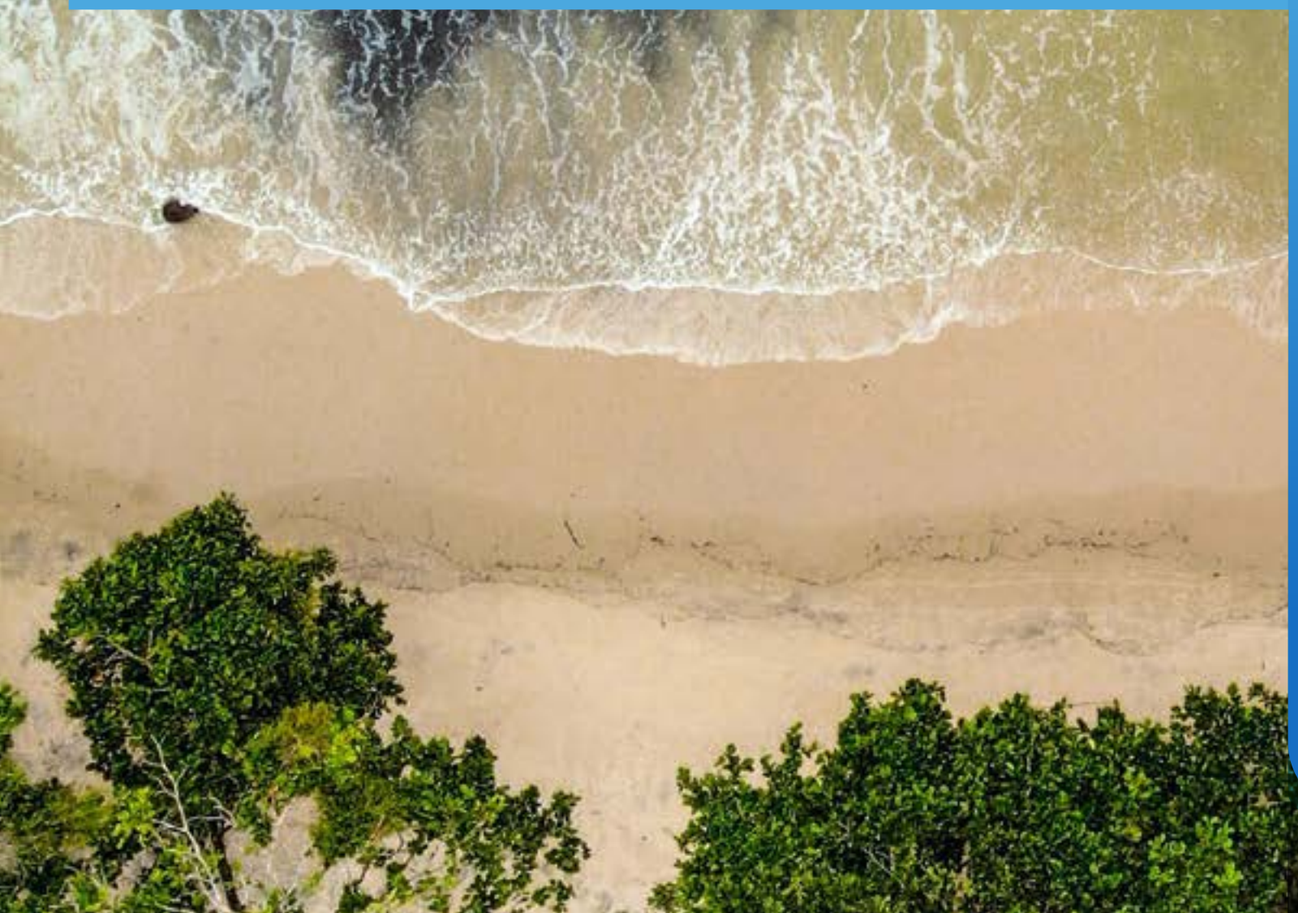
References
1. https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/strains-freshwater-resources-impact-food-production-waterconsumption#:~:text=Today%2C%20around%2070%20percent%20of,goes%20to%20the%20industrial%20sector.
2. https://www.wri.org/insights/how-sustainably-feed-10-billion-people-2050-21-charts

Human rights and water

Some of the water-related impacts experienced by affected individuals and communities connected with food supply chains are[3]

- Lack of access to water and/or sanitation services in the workplace
- Scarcity of water
- Pollution of water
- Physical Barriers to Access Water
- Inequitable access to water
- Flooding

These impacts can have potentially serious effects including the right to life, health, food, housing, food, work, livelihoods and the right to freedom of movement. Humans cannot survive without adequate access to water, so if water supply is endangered it can lead to displacement, migration and conflict.



Implications for businesses

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)[4] outlines the following ways in which water stress can disrupt a supply chain

- Water scarcity or flooding could lead to production stoppages, resulting in depressed revenues.
- Companies operating in an increasingly water-stressed area might struggle to obtain necessary permits to grow production, potentially muting revenue growth.
- Water scarcity might raise operating costs in terms of higher prices paid for water or increase expenses for mitigation efforts such as hauling water by truck and incremental reclamation processing activities.
- Capital expenditures could rise as companies deploy technologies to improve water efficiency or reclaim water.
- Community disruption could be experienced when pollution or encroachment upon water resources are affected by local operations.

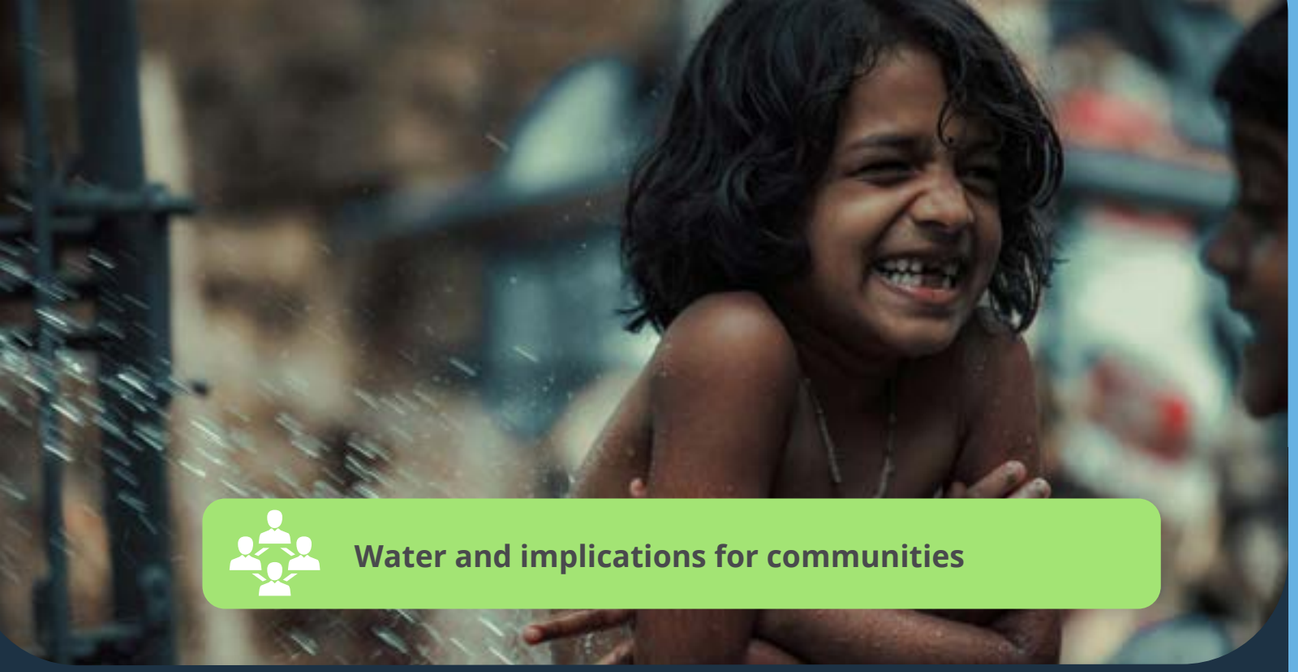
According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), globally, three out of four jobs depend on water.[5] Many of the jobs in these sectors are in rural areas and rely on the effective management and sustainability of a healthy environment. These jobs are under increased pressure due to climate change and environmental degradation, leading to lower productivity and income instability, particularly in the case of the most vulnerable households and workers. Providing water supply and sanitation in production areas for workers and local communities is both a risk in terms of lack of provision and an opportunity to support and strengthen a local area.

> **"It is not enough to know your water footprint. It is as crucial for any business to know the water footprint of the regions and river basins where their operational and supply chain water footprints land. Water scarcity or pollution can disrupt or halt production, cause problems within the supply chain, lead to conflict with other water users, such as farmers or communities in the area, and damage corporate reputations."**

References

3. https://shiftproject.org/resource/guidance-for-companies-on-respecting-the-human-rights-to-water-and-sanitation/#:~:text=This%20guidance%20aims%20to%20help%20companies%20(particularly%20heavy%20water%20users)
4. https://sasb.ifrs.org/blog/water-risk-flows-across-industries-and-through-value-chains/
5. UN Environment Programme news release Three in Four Jobs in the Global Workforce Depend on Water, says UN on World Water Day

The quote on this page is from https://www.waterfootprint.org/time-for-action/what-can-companies-do/)



Water and implications for communities

A company's operations (farm and processing) could be having direct negative impacts on access to water for local communities.

This could be through:
- significant withdrawals of water from limited community water sources
- discharging effluent into local waterways
- generating an influx of workers for peak seasons leading to an overload on available water and sanitation services

Rural smallholder or subsistence farmers may face significant challenges due to limited access to natural resources such as water, irrigation systems or face additional costs for water usage.

ILO conventions and water

ILO Convention No. 161 concerning Occupational Health Services (1985)[6] underlines the responsibility of employers for the health and safety of their workers, which includes access to safe drinking water and sanitation. If housing is provided by the employer, the employer should ensure access to adequate sanitation facilities, as well as to safe drinking water in such ample quantities as to provide for all personal and household uses.

Other ILO Conventions that include water supply and sanitary provision:
- Plantations Convention, 1958 (No. 110)
- Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115)
- The Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184)

Heightened risk for vulnerable groups

Gender, class, race, age, physical ability, and educational level determine access to water and financial and societal resources, potentially averting climate-induced water hazards, reducing vulnerability and facilitating adaptation.

Migrant workers: water deficits are linked to 10 percent of the increase in total migration within countries between 1970 and 2000. By the end of this century, worsening droughts are projected to affect about 700 million people[8]. Increasing the vulnerability to exploitation, migrants who leave regions with lower rainfall and frequent drought usually possess lower educational levels and skills than other migrant workers, implying significantly lower wages and less access to basic services at their destination.

Indigenous peoples: Both land and water grabbing through the construction of large hydroelectric dams, the growth of agribusiness, deforestation and contamination of water sources are sighted in a 2022 report on Human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of Indigenous peoples.[8] This results in loss of livelihoods, traditional ways of living and displacement of people.

Children's health, educational advancement and overall well-being are influenced by access to basic services, including safe drinking water and sanitation. Over 90 per cent of child mortality cases are related to contaminated water and inadequate sanitation. This means that waterborne chemicals may be dangerous for a child at a concentration that is harmless for an adult.

Women's water rights[9] are hampered by societal norms in some geographies that prevent women from accessing water and participating in water management which makes them more vulnerable to climate-related hazards. Water collection takes away time from income-generating activities and education that impacts on employment opportunities, resource availability and decision-making in water-related adaptation measures

References

6. Article 5 (b)
7. World Bank, Ebb and Flow report https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/ebb-and-flow-water-migration-and-development
8. https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5124-human-rights-safe-drinking-water-and-sanitation-indigenous
9. Caretta and Börjeson, 2015; Djoudi et al., 2016; Sultana, 2018; Yadav and Lal, 2018

Conducting Human Rights Due Diligence on water

Throughout 2024, FNET members took part in a range of group discussions that illustrated the complexity of understanding and mitigating impacts from water issues on people in businesses' supply chains. The following section follows the UNGP's Human Rights Due Diligence process (risk assessment, prioritisation, action, measuring, communication) to demonstrate how some businesses are currently conducting human rights due diligence with regard to water and some of the problems and solutions identified by members.

Identifying risk

Understanding risk falls into two categories; risk of a site or supply chain to water issues such as flooding, drought and a business' policies regarding water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) provision for workers. Sometimes these may be linked, for example a water scarce region may impact on both a supply issue and a water provision risk to workers. The United Nations Human Rights Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights Guiding Principle 17[10] outlines the responsibility of business, through HRDD processes to identify (and remediate) where adverse human rights impacts of operations are taking place. Access to and use of water on farms and/or communities through the human rights lens may therefore involve and impact other rights such as the rights to health, life, and food.[11] In addition to this, there is also the responsibility of the business in the community of operation to ensure that their presence does not negatively affect a community's access to fresh water.

When conducting an initial scoping exercise, the key areas to focus on therefore are identifying which sourcing regions are high risk in terms of water impact on supply (i.e. areas of flooding, scarcity etc.), the business's approach to water management, and worker access to adequate WASH facilities.

WWF Risk Filter
"Corporate and portfolio-level screening tool to help companies and investors to prioritise action on what and where it matters the most to address water risks for enhancing business resilience and contributing to a sustainable future"[12] WWF Water Risk Filter

WWF Risk Filter website
The filter contains maps to understand physical, regulatory and reputational risks, and tools to help assess water risks across the value chain. It can be used at a site level and some of the aspects the tool that relate to human rights and water fall into:

- Drought frequency
- Estimated flood occurrence
- Water availability
- Access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Corruption Perceptions Index
- Cultural Diversity

By using this data it's possible to understand and prioritise where the greatest risks are from the indicators and risks that are most salient for your business and operations.

References
10. UNGP guiding principle 17 (a) (a) Should cover adverse human rights impacts that the business enterprise may cause or contribute to through its own activities, or which may be directly linked to its operations, products or services by its business relationships;
11. SHIFT Project Guidance for Companies on Respecting the Human Rights to Water and sanitation
12. https://riskfilter.org/

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
Understanding the worksite risks helps a business to benchmark its provision of WASH for workers and communities. Gathering information on this would include:

- Identifying health and safety considerations linked to water and sanitation for workers such as free access to drinking water and sanitation facilities. Accommodation linked to the worksite needs to provide adequate water for personal use and sanitation facilities equal to the numbers of resident workers
- Availability of WASH for workers in packhouses or processing sites.
- Internal controls and management standards linked to the management of water.
- Compliance with government requirements, project financing terms, or reporting standards.
- Identifying informal and formal initiatives and/or forums for dialogue with:

o Community: in relation to water stress related risks, accessibility of clean water, shared water sources and complaint mechanisms. This could also include increase of dwellers during peak seasons such as harvesting and internal migration access to water.
o Workers: health and safety / WASH related record keeping, risk assessments and dedicated responsible personnel.

- Identifying a health & safety committee or consultative forum and the role played in the governance of OSH on the site.
- Reviewing collective agreements with trade union partners negotiating provisions to protect the safety and health of workers from water stress and/or flooding.
- Emergency preparedness policies for flooding scenarios.

Prioritisation

The findings of the risk assessment stage need to be further analysed to determine saliency for the business. As mentioned in the FNET Climate & HRDD Guide risks can be mapped on a matrix like the one illustrated below using the factors of severity and likelihood to determine priority.

Additional factors to include specific to prioritisation around water are whether your business operations have caused, contributed, or are linked to a negative impact on the people and communities connected with your operations and supply chains.

Supplier member case study

A global fresh produce supplier emphasises the intrinsic reality that many crops go hand-in-hand with 'sustainability', (short and long-term resilience, people, communities and economic activity). As such the 'water' issue is intrinsically linked to people and communities and there are inherent ethical considerations for water usage.

Risk assessment
Going beyond risk assessment data is essential in building up a full understanding of the water-related risks for the business. This FNET member establishes high risk growing countries by using an array of tools such as the WWF water risk management tool and the Yale University Environment Performance Index. The collected data is then further broken down to identify growers and pack houses who are at risk, and where action can be taken. Once a supplier climate risk rating is determined (high, medium or low), dialogue is entered into with the suppliers to determine what action is already being done, what action can be taken and how invested the farmer is to finding solutions.

Additional information and framing comes through:
- Site visits
- Presence of local/representatives
- Sustainability audits
- Dialogue and discussion with local stakeholders, a more thorough understanding of the local context can be built. National profiles do not, necessarily take into account regional variances within a country. For example, Peru has different environmental impacts and needs in coastal areas, mountains, desert and rainforests.

Taking action

Once priorities have been identified, the next step is to prevent and mitigate ongoing or future impacts and provide or enable remedy for those impacts that have already occurred. These actions may relate to the issues around water usage for production purposes and WASH provision for workers and local communities and each action specific to the risk mitigation or remedy.

Within the business

- Develop a strategy and key performance indicators for supply chain water management, tracking and improvement
- Prepare briefings or training to raise awareness on water and impact for people for commercial, procurement, legal and partnership teams.
- Prepare educational materials for suppliers/workers on issues that relate to water e.g. emergency protocols on flooding, sanitation, OSH (water-borne illnesses, pollution) include casual labour during peak seasons
- Use worker forums to consult and discuss planning and adaptation initiatives.
- Collaborative action may be required to take a "landscape" approach to mitigating risk. Many water issues are complex and cannot necessarily be solved by single businesses.
- Develop supply chain/location-specific policy commitments on priority supply chains that specifically address the human rights for water and sanitation.

This could include:

  - o A commitment to conduct on-going human rights due diligence with regard to the human rights to water and sanitation.
  - o The company's approach to engaging with and consulting affected stakeholders & rights holders.
  - o Make financial or technical contributions to address risks.
  - o Support initiatives or principles that are consistent with the company's responsibility to respect human rights and its water stewardship commitments.

- Engage senior management and participation in initiatives such as the CEO Water Mandate: Global Business Leaders Advancing Water Stewardship and Resilience[13] organised by UN Global Compact.
- Determine and adopt management standards and associated audit protocols that reference and highlight water stress risks to rights holders. This would include disclosure on water usage, exposure to operating regions classified as water stressed.

> **Adding Climate focused risk pillars started with identifying which risk pillars we would use. The WWF Water risk management tool was used to risk assess each farm and packhouse in our supply chain. We incorporate suppliers Sustainability Audit Status to help support data at a site level. Our country ranking is determined from the Yale University Environmental Performance Index.**
> **FNET supplier member**

With suppliers and customers

- With suppliers, WASH local experts & OSH representatives discuss findings, policy and together establish plans for adaptation, education, monitoring, and technical support.
- Adapt current OSH policy and practice to include commitment to the provision of water, sanitation and proposed action for extreme water events such as flooding or drought.
- Review the terms of contracts with business partners to ensure they specify WASH expectations for both workers and local communities.
- Develop early warning systems for flooding and other extreme water issues with suppliers.
- Work with suppliers to encourage

  - o access to local expertise to identify and reduce risk of water stress and flooding
  - o engineering or technology-use to manage water usage and improve water quality, including management of chemical effluent and the capture, storage, and distribution of water
  - o water-friendly and sustainable production methods, such as groundwater management, community-based irrigation, rainwater management etc.
  - o contribution towards increased and more equitable access to water in surrounding areas

References
13. https://ceowatermandate.org/

Some examples from FNET members

Below are some examples and themes discussed by FNET members on different types of action taken. The discussions within the network highlighted the complexities around water and human rights and there are not always easy or straightforward solutions.

Navigating bureaucracy: In Spain business are required to apply for water permits. The application process of obtaining permits has proven to be slow and could be identified as a non-compliance in an audit. Working collectively with packhouses, communities, MSIs and NGOs provided the support and leverage to deal with the delays in applications. It also brought together those who take a holistic approach to tackling water challenges and identified who can provide strategic and targeted support.

Introducing solutions: Water recycling in Israel is a method of reducing water usage, however it is dependent on machinery and investment which could be challenging for many small farms. A way forward could be to promote the use of technology and best practice examples to share with suppliers how other farms have approached and implemented water recycling.

Contingency and exit planning: An increase in extreme weather and seasonal fluctuations negatively affecting farmers and supply result could mean that commercial decisions for both the short and long term need to be made. The realities 'on the ground' are complex and decisions will have ethical / labour implications.

The internal considerations include:

- How best to support the farmer when faced with crop failure (and increased demand),
- Can commercial agreements be adjusted to ensure a return to the grower once they have supply again?
- Discussion with both commercial teams and consumers when quality or scarcity of product is compromised,
- Do we 'walk away' (exit responsibly) or support suppliers on the adaptation journey going forward?
- What happens to the work force when for example, crops are moved due to seasonal change or other climate related impacts? This could include concerns around increased vulnerability or temporary / seasonal workers, Wages, health and safety, reduced working hours, and impact on local communities if work and wages fluctuate/decrease.

Currently more questions than answers

Increasing frequency of extreme weather events, more volatile seasonal fluctuations and more severe impacts on people are projected in the future and this is relatively new territory for us all. There may not necessarily be clear answers or lots of best practice available for businesses to learn from at this current time. FNET membership and similar organisations continue to work on this with the aim to:

- Share systemic problems and knowledge with the intent of finding solutions
- Participate in peer-to-peer discussions
- Encouraging businesses to participate in collaborative projects that address high-risk regions.

Monitoring & Communication

Consult internally with relevant teams, suppliers and workers to develop appropriate monitoring and improvement strategies on actions identified and implemented.

- Apply KPIs to priority sites and actions to ensure effective implementation on heat stress preparation and mitigation. KPIs for example could cover health indicators, wellbeing of workers, vulnerable workers, working time and mechanical innovation.
- Data could also be gathered through operational grievance mechanisms and third-party non-compliance audit data.
- Ensure all monitoring is communicated within the business to relevant teams (commercial, procurement, legal) as well as with suppliers, and the workers.
- Formal reporting in the public domain would be in sustainability reports and ideally reflected as a climate change related salient risk to workers.

> Notwithstanding due diligence on water security and having we need to go beyond the boundaries we set.
>
> This includes:
> - Collaborative action at the landscape level
> - Demonstrating goodwill & support between supply chain businesses
> - Ensuring awareness & common language is used across all operations
>
> (FNET member)

Case studies

Fair Water Footprint Initiative

Fair water footprints are about people, communities, companies, investors, and governments working together to trigger positive change by ensuring that everything we produce and consume 'does no harm' and 'does good' for water security, climate resilience and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.[14]

The Fair WaterFootprint Initiative shows that much of our UK/EU water is drawn from other countries who are facing water scarcity, food scarcity and water governance challenges.
The examples below demonstrate how these commodities are in our supply chains, they include:

- o Sugar (East Africa) Water grabbing through cutting off rivers to supply plantations denies communities water needed for survival.
- o Sugar (Malawi) Embankments are built to protect the crop but cause extreme and lethal flooding when the rains come.
- o Cocoa (West Africa) Cocoa produced primarily by small holder farmers, many certified by Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance experience extreme WASH deficits causing ill health and depravation.
- o Fruit and vegetables (Peru – Ica Region) Extensive commercial farming has drained ground water, crashed the water tables and increased saliniation of the water. It has resulted in social unrest.
  If radical change in water management is not undertaken, it is predicted that there is approximately 10 years of water supply left before the system collapses where the impact will be loss of jobs, livelihoods and produce.

The Glasgow Declaration for Fair Water Footprints at COP26 provides hope through wide collaboration of governments, business and investors and includes action on the following principles:

1. Zero water pollution,
2. Sustainable and equitable water withdrawal,
3. Resilience to floods and water conflict,
4. Universal WASH access, and
5. Protection and restoration of nature

More information can be found on the Water Witness International website https://waterwitness.org/

FNET Supplier member

The River Wye is one of Britain's most beautiful rivers, popular with swimmers, fishers and many others, but it's in trouble. Over recent years, the amount of wildlife in the river has reduced and it's become a murky green in places, the result of algal blooms. There are many reasons for its decline. One of them is phosphate pollution but they all need to be addressed.

Poultry farming, and poultry manure, are often named as the main reasons for phosphate pollution. Phosphates are "rocket fuel" for crops, but in the river they fuel algae – crowding out other plants and contributing to algal blooms. Phosphates come from many places in the water catchment area. The real issue is not where it comes from, but how excess levels end up in the river.

There are 2 mains ways excess phosphates can end up in the river:
- directly to the waterway
- via the land

The businesses made a commitment in 2021 to be 'part of the solution' and published a roadmap illustrating company action to ensure their supply chain is not exacerbating the problem and with the objective that by 2024, the supply chain will not contribute excess phosphate to the Wye catchment
The company worked in partnership with WWF, WRAP, The Wye & Usk Foundation and Lancaster University on the following areas of implementation:
1. Data – to understand the business' phosphate contribution and where it comes from, in the context that all relevant actors need to do the same.
2. Diversion – to take all sold litter away from the land, either out of catchment, to Litter burners or to Anaerobic Digestion using a logistics partner.
3. Assurance – to demonstrate responsible usage for anyone using the company's litter on their land.

Collaboration with other actors is essential to have lasting impact on the river, notwithstanding the business meeting their own objectives.

FNET Supplier member

Beyond policy and practice
Some of the focussed area of work has been in a specific region in Peru and a key element was to establish a team based locally that includes international and local specialists to address water risk. Current business policy and practice is framed by due diligence around water sustainability with suppliers who are 3rd party accredited and supported by the team in Peru.

The challenge now is beyond policy and practice; where the team expertise and resource are in place, and focus on how to go beyond the established business boundaries to tackle the critical water challenge at landscape level. Business considerations are as follows:
- Drawing together constituent groups such as Government, business peers, academics and community representatives to shape collaborative action,
- Demonstrating goodwill internally within the business, and externally with collaborative partners
- Working with colleagues through developing a common understanding and narrative to address cultural and political disconnect on the ground.

Retailer Member

The drivers behind the business' sustainability commitments are multifaceted. Global freshwater demand is expected to outstrip supply while needing to produce 60% more food by 2050 to feed a world population of 9.3 billion. There is also a lack of access to safe, clean drinking water for 785 million people globally.

Water sustainability is therefore critical and is recognised in two headline commitments:
1. Sourcing & creating with care - products will be created with respect for people and the planet where water is referenced via the commitment to WRAPs Water Roadmap and collective action to achieve sustainable water management in key sourcing locations, and

2. Within our 'Treating people fairly' commitment (Everyone that produces our food will get a fair deal), there is a dedicated commitment to be 'Leaders in tackling global water poverty'. This brings together the water and human rights in one objective.

Ensuring water security is the best way to address climate vulnerability and inequalities and reduce the effects of climate change to allow communities, nature and economies to thrive.

To realise the commitments, the following activities and initiatives have included:
1. Working in partnership with the One Foundation for more than 15 years to invest in clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects around the world. Donations are raised through sales of own-label bottled water to support projects to communities living in the most extreme poverty, donating over £20 million and changing the lives of more than 3 million people since 2007. The sum has been spread across the following areas:

   a. 50% is ringfenced for Fairtrade producer communities in the Fairtrade cocoa, sugar, tea and flower growing communities
   b. 40% is ringfenced for The One Foundation priority programmes, and
   c. 10% committed to direct emergency support through partners of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). The company has donated over £1.5m towards the efforts to respond to crises ranging from famines, war and viruses through to natural disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, cyclones and flooding.

2. In 2018 the business became the pioneering partner with Water Unite raising 3p per litre to water projects across the globe for every own-branded still, sparkling and flavoured water sold, raising 1p per litre for all other water bottles sold.

3. Implementing the WRAP Roadmap towards Water Security for Food & Drink Supplies with investment in collective action projects in priority sourcing areas.

References
14. https://fairwaterfootprints.org/what-are-fair-water-footprints/)



Additional resources and information

Reports, insight, and guidance documents

- **Guidance for Companies on Respecting the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: Bringing a Human Rights Lens to Corporate Water Stewardship -** Shift (2015)
- **The Right to Water -** United Nations Human Rights, World Health Organisation and Habitat (2007)
- **Wastewater and jobs:The Decent Work approach to reducing untreated wastewater -** ILO (2017)
- **Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods** - ILO (2019)
- **Handbook on realizing the human rights to water and sanitation** - UNOCHR (2013)
- **Corporate Water Disclosure Guidelines -** CEO Water Mandate, UN Global Compact (2014)
- **IPCC fact sheets (country profiles and thematic areas)** Specific factsheet on Food and Water (2022)

Tools for assessing water and some resources

- **Aqueduct tools to identify and evaluate water risks around the world** – World Resources Institute
- **AWS International Water Stewardship Standard** (AWS Standard) is a globally applicable framework for major water users to understand their water use and impacts, and to work collaboratively and transparently for sustainable water management within a catchment context. (2019)
- **Climate Risk Toolbox** - FAO. The toolbox has been developed to promote the identification of climate risk hotspots around the world and to support the "climate-proofing" of FAO programmes and projects.
- **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** - Yale Centre for EnvironmentalLaw & Polcy. The 2024 EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world
- **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Data Portal,** The IWRM Data Portal provides easy access to global, regional, and national status of implementation IWRM. The portal is the official repository of SDG 6.5.1 data, with results from 191 countries across 3 reporting rounds (2017, 2020, 2023). It contains all country reports and results, associated analysis and reporting, and the underlying methodologies.
- **Water Risk Filter -** WWF. A tool to help companies and investors to prioritise action on what and where it matters the most to address water risks for enhancing business resilience and contributing to a sustainable future.
- **WASH in the workplace** – A self-assessment tool for use in a company's facility. WBCSD

Useful organisations and networks

- **Water Footprint Network** Their mission is "to use the water footprint concept to promote the transition toward sustainable, fair and efficient use of fresh water resources worldwide."
- **A Roadmap Towards Water Security for Food and Drink Supply** - WRAP (2021). The 'Water Roadmap' sets out a vision and key pathways to address the challenges we collectively face in protecting critical water resources for food supply, for nature and for local communities. It is a joint vision for the outcome WRAP is seeking across the UK food & drink industry as a whole: to deliver the Courtauld Commitment 2030 water target that 50% of the UK's fresh food is sourced from areas with sustainable water management.
- **Water Resilience Coalition / CEO Water Mandate** - an industry-driven, CEO-led initiative to address the global water crisis. Organised by UN Global Compact
- **Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership** - An Action Oriented Think Tank for the Water Sector, World Bank

Further reading

- **An introduction to the human right to water: Law, politics, and beyond** - Fantini E, (2019)
- **Shared responsibility for global water stress from agri-food production and consumption and opportunities for mitigation** – Shaikh, Hadjikakou, Bryan (2022)
- **Climate change and food: The potential impact on production and prices** – Ekins World Economic Forum (2021)