



# INVESTIGATION OF THE DIFFERENT INTERVENING FACTORS THAT DETERMINE THE LINK BETWEEN WATER AND CONFLICT

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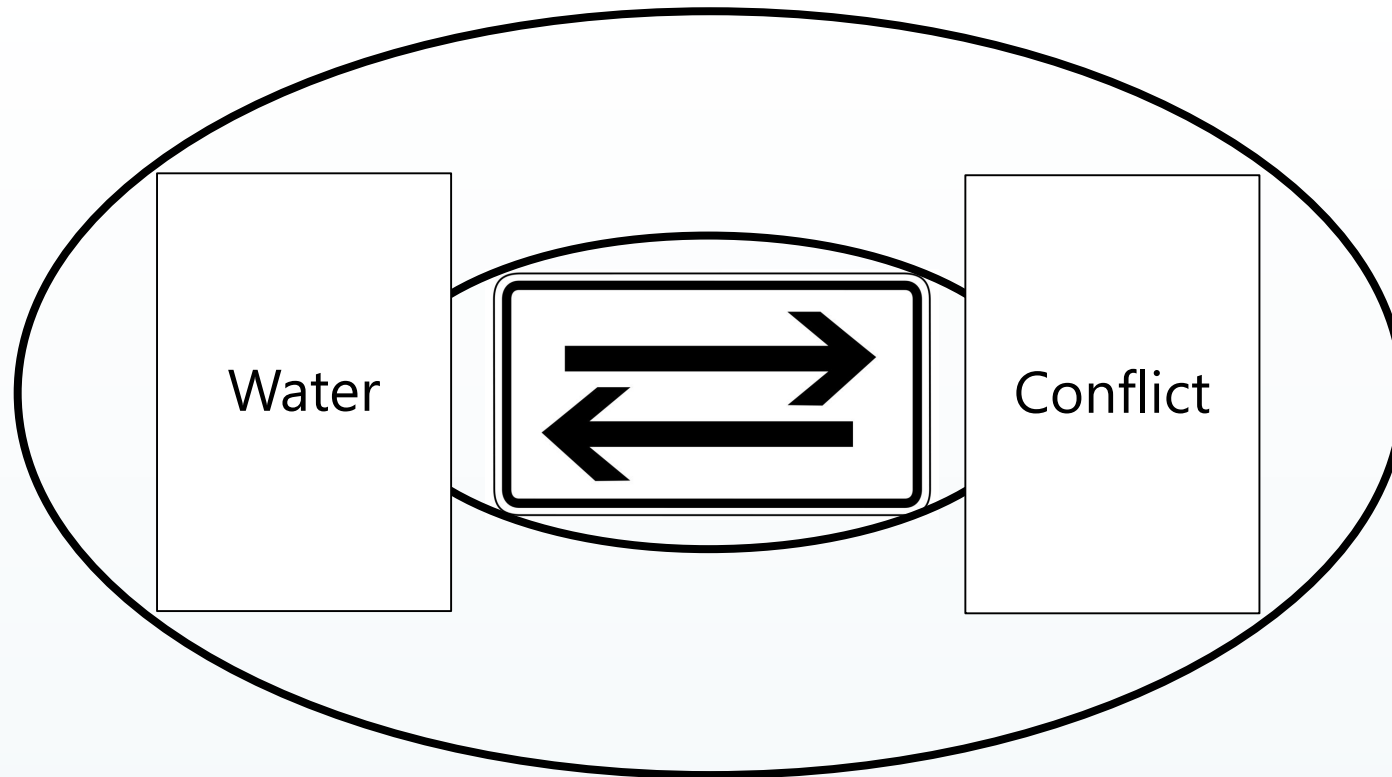
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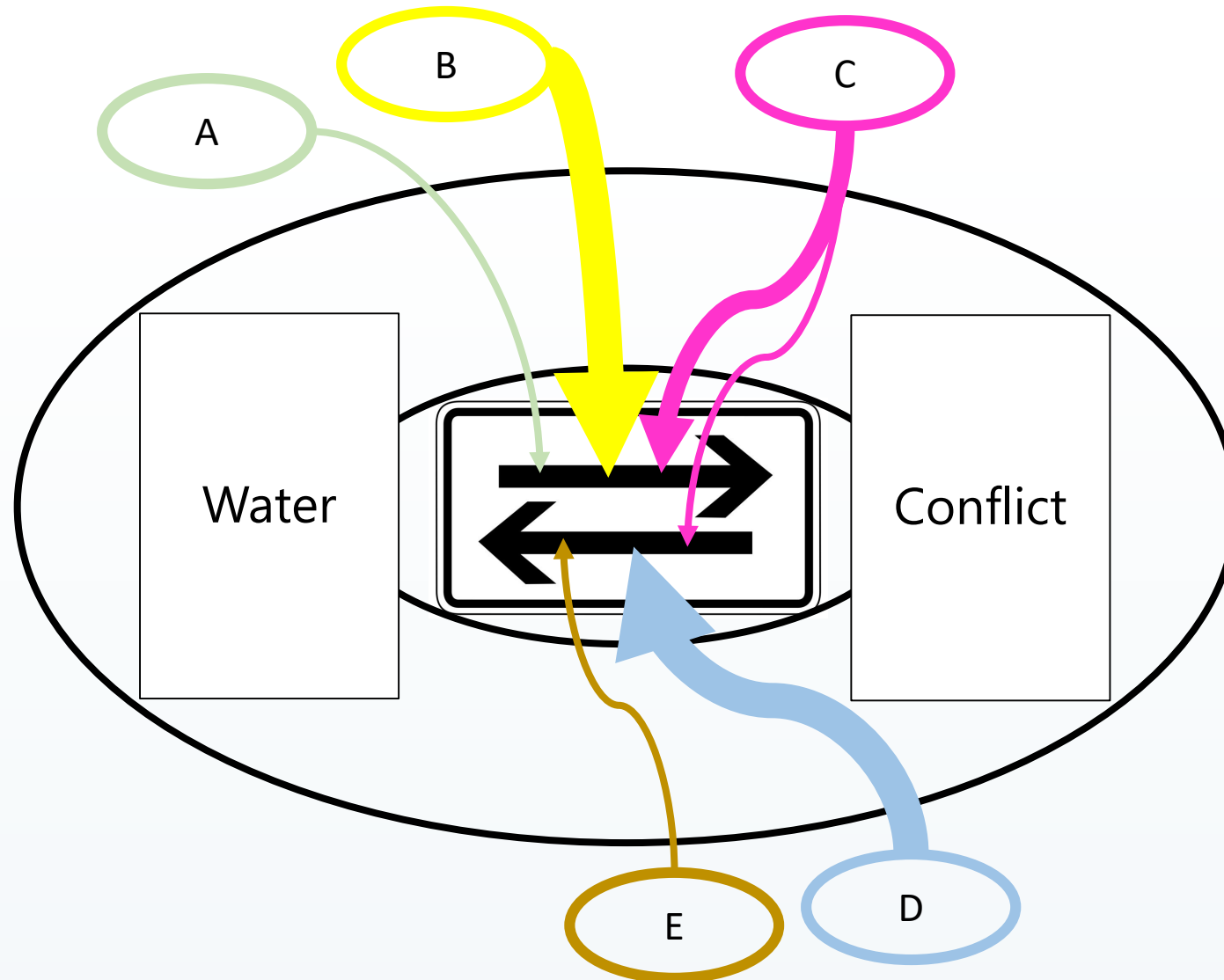


Excerpts from slides prepared for Water, Peace and Security tailor-made capacity development activities in Iraq. Please attribute authors when using materials.

# Investigation of the different intervening factors that determine the link between water and conflict



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## Characteristics of intervening factors

- Embedded in broader contexts, relevant dynamics “inside water” & “outside water”
- Impact along the causal chain between water and conflict
- Some factors can be influenced, others not
- Intervening factors are shaped by developments in the country, in the region or beyond
- Wide range of actors, interests and policy fields

## Examples for hydrological factors

- High dependency on resources originating outside the country
- High vulnerability (water, climate change, environmental degradation)
- High levels of water consumption in the agricultural sector
- Run-down water infrastructures
- Neglect of water management

## Examples for economic factors

- Rentier-state model with a high dependency on the oil price
- State as country's main employer
- Budget cuts
- Decline of the agricultural sector
- Negative investment climate (FDIs)
- Brain drain

## Examples for socio-political factors

- Increasing poverty levels
- Unemployment “crisis”
- Population growth
- Displacement
- Broader discontent among the population with the legitimacy of the state being questioned

## Conclusions

- Intervening factors are “unleashed” in different areas and sectors
- Several factors occur in parallel, they are interlinked, interacting and partly reinforcing each other
- Intervening factors affect all levels of policy-making, with different time horizons and impact
- The combination of intervening factors accumulates to a potentially ‘toxic mix’



## What does that mean for policy-making?

- Meaningfully addressing 'water & conflict' can require addressing intervening factors 'outside water'
- Potential intervening factors need to be identified and considered in water governance and water management:
  - What are potential intervening factors and what are the risks?
  - How can these factors preventively be addressed?
  - To what extent and at what costs can the impact be mitigated?
  - How can the worst be prevented from happening?