GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND POST-CONFLICT WATER GOVERNANCE: IMPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Good governance of water is important both for sustainable development and in building peace in post-conflict countries, where adequate management of water resources provides recovery and long-term stability. In post-conflict regions, governmental policies, institutions, and regulations are absolutely key in stabilising economies, ensuring social cohesion, and safeguarding environmental sustainability. However, in most cases, fragmented governance structures, a lack of technical expertise, scant financial resources, and inadequate infrastructure affects policy implementation. This research explores the implications of governmental policies for water governance in post-conflict country, considering the role and impact of policy frameworks on access to clean water, equitable distribution of the resource, and sustainable management. Using a multi-framework theoretical approach, including Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Ostrom's Institutional Analysis and Development framework, peace-building theories, and Environmental Peace building. The study investigates challenges and policy gaps that make it difficult to achieve good water governance, including institutional capacity, community engagement, and resource allocation. This study yields insights and recommendations for the enhancement of governments in their water governance frameworks to bring about stability, resilience, and development in post-conflict regions. The potential contribution of international organisations to supporting long-term water governance and recovery strategies is also examined in the study.

Keywords: Government policies, Post-conflict water management, Water governance, Reconstruction, Water resource management.

Introduction

Water governance forms one of the foundational aspects in achieving sustainable development and peacemaking, particularly within post-conflict areas. In a State that is recovering from conflict, proper management of water resources is not just a means towards short-term revival but also plays an important role in establishing sustainable peace in the long term. Water governance frameworks comprise policies, institutions, and regulations that ensure economies are stabilized, societies cohere socially, and environmental sustainability is guaranteed (UN-Water, 2021). In the absence of good governance, water shortage and contamination are often made worse, increasing competition for the available supply and potentially re-igniting community tensions (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative,

2022). This, therefore, underpins that water governance should be placed at the center of recovery strategies by governments in post-conflict societies, given that access to clean and reliable water resources is important, not only for public health but also for agriculture, economic activities, and overall socio-economic revitalistion of the areas affected (Swain, 2019).

In post-conflict recovery, governments are usually confronted with the daunting tasks of rebuilding institutions, infrastructure, and the integration of displaced persons. These conditions make good water governance quite difficult, as it cuts across social, economic, and environmental domains. The lack of a coherent national framework for water governance, even with support from international actors and humanitarian organisations, can compromise recovery processes and reduce resilience to future

conflicts (Meissner, 2021). Consequently, government intervention in water policy will be of essence in reaching the goal of sustainable management of this resource, besides instilling confidence, equity, and inclusive development in communities that have suffered from the ravages of conflict. This is why government policies, in addition to managing natural resources, are mechanisms to build trust and foster social cohesion, which are precursors to lasting peace.

Good policy implementation is crucial for post-conflict rehabilitation, but several barriers impede water governance. (Zeitoun & Warner, 2020). It is hard to pursue a singular approach in the management of water resources in those countries experiencing protracted war, like South Sudan and Iraq, where the governance structures have been polarized and oppositional to one another. Poor infrastructure, inadequate financial support, and lack of technical experience contribute to the conditions that impede governments from constructing and managing water governance systems. According to (UNDP, 2022) poor oversight and a lack of credible data pose another big concern. When there is a lack of appropriate data about water supply, demand, and quality, governments are hindered in making appropriate policies (Pahl-Wostl, 2022).

Government initiatives sometimes fail to meet the specific needs of the communities affected by conflict because central decision-making processes may not consider the peculiar social and environmental aspects of each location (Swain & Jägerskog, 2018). This is particularly relevant in countries where the impacts of violence vary significantly among different demographic and geographic groups. In regard to post-conflict water management, humanitarian organisations and donors take the main stage; they tend, however, to emphasise short-term emergency aid rather than investment in systems of long-term governance (Meissner, 2021). Because the objectives of short-term assistance rarely align with the priorities of

long-term governance, water policies in post-conflict countries are not always optimised to support long-term development and rehabilitation processes.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of water governance measures enacted after a conflict and propose alterations where necessary in response to such challenges. The overall aim of this study is to identify the impact of existing regulations on water governance goals such as sustainable management practices, equitable distribution of the resource, and access to clean water. It argues for an understanding of how different governments may devise strategies for recovery and long-term development. It is pegged on resourcing, community participation strategies, and institutional capacity as key sites where policy creates impediments to effective water governance. This research, through an in-depth analysis of current policies, aims to provide ways in which such water governance could be improved in countries that have been torn apart by violence. The ultimate goal is to help these regions become more stable and resilient.

The key questions guiding this research, among many are: The implications of post-conflict government policies on water governance, infrastructure, and accessibility to water resources; how the gaps in policy have created obstacles to efficient management, including issues of community participation and institutional capacity. The study concludes by looking into the possible involvement of international organisations and measures to enhance government policy to better support sustainable water governance. The goal of these inquiries is to identify the successes and failures of present water governance strategies in post-conflict areas. This study tries to answer these questions, in order to better understand the elements that influence water governance results and to provide practical suggestions for how policies can be made more successful. This study becomes very relevant considering

the importance of water governance for post-conflict recovery and sustainable development. In this light, stability and resilience can be enhanced by understanding the policy dynamics at play, as most wars affect regions where water is already scarce, like Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of the Middle East. Attaining a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, including health, economic growth, and environmental protection, depends on sustainable water management (UN, 2021). In the post-conflict regions, good governance is even more crucial when water resources are increasingly becoming scarce due to climate change. This research aims to support policymakers in the development of inclusive resilient water governance frameworks through the identification and analysis of existing policy gaps and issues. It lays the foundation for evidence-based policy recommendations and contributes to the broader discourse on sustainable recovery strategies.

Literature Review
Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework is needed to understand post-war water governance effectively. Of the various models, integrated water resources management has been the most influential because it calls for an integrated approach that considers the interdependence of ecosystems, human needs, and bodies of water (UN-Water, 2021). Due to the fact that conflicts and subsequent recovery efforts place additional strain on water resources, IWRM, with its emphasis on stakeholder involvement, sustainable management of the resource, and intersectoral cooperation, is particularly relevant in post-conflict situations (Swain, 2019). Which will be well-equipped to understand and comply with the needs of all parties involved, including local communities, Non-Governmental Organisations, and government agencies.

Apart from that, another important theoretical framework contributed by Ostrom is the Institutional Analysis and Development, or in short, Institutional Analysis and Development. It explains how institutions influence the outcomes of governance. As per the studies of Ostrom, collective action and local knowledge are the most vital ingredients in managing the common pool resources like water (Ostrom, 2011).This approach underscores the importance of community-led initiatives in post-conflict situations to address governance gaps and ensure local ownership, where institutional capacity has been undermined. Strengthening local governance institutions and encouraging cooperative management can be fostered if policymakers take the time to understand the context and regulations controlling water use. The peace-building theories also shed light on understanding the function of water governance in post-conflict reconstruction. According to Lederach's Conflict Transformation paradigm, restoring trust and connections is an important component of the process in conflict-affected communities (Lederach, 2003). Good water governance may in help facilitate regional communication and cooperation, thus easing tensions resulting from competing demands for limited supplies. This new paradigm is pressing for the inclusion of underrepresented groups, such as women and the oppressed, into policy procedures in order to make decisions that promote social cohesiveness and reflect the interests of society at large.

Consca 2012 refers to the paradigm of Environmental Peace-building in which armed factions could be taught to cooperate by better managing natural resources. The communities, after realising that they share an interest in water resources, can work together for peaceful management of these resources. From this point of view, policymakers should ensure resources are managed in a manner to bring cooperation and reduce chances of conflict rather than simply adhering to tried and tested concepts of traditional governance. Finally, it is through the interaction of different theoretical frameworks that a better understanding of the complex nature of water administration in the aftermath of a conflict can be achieved. In the formulation of

effective policies, there are formidable obstacles of dispersed government, limited resources, and complex social dynamics. This can be used by governments to establish inclusive and adaptive governance frameworks that respond to the peculiar demands of post-conflict communities through Integrated Water Resources Management, IAD, peace-building, and environmental management.

Post-Conflict Water Governance

Post-conflict water governance is the management of water resources in post-conflict areas, which is, however, an intricate and multidimensional problem. Water basically plays a core role in human existence, agricultural output, and economic growth; however, conflicts often aggravate resource loss, contamination, and infrastructure damage-issues that are already in problems with water management (Meissner, 2021). For instance, the water infrastructure has been destroyed due to the conflict in South Sudan and Syria, making managing water resources and access to drinking water extremely difficult. As a result, it fosters social tensions and increased health risks (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, 2022).

Water resource management is inefficient within the post-conflict situation because of the breakdown that takes place within political institutions. On failure by governments to control the water resources, this calls for non-state or informal institutions to fill the prevailing gaps accordingly. Swain & Jägerskog (2018) in such contexts, there is a lack of policy coherence and an unequal distribution of resources, which results in fragmentation. This reduces the likelihood of establishing comprehensive and equitable governance. The informal agreements at the local level can also lead to conflicts with statutory regulations at the federal level, with resultant inconsistency in behaviour and further inhibition of efforts at good governance (Pahl-Wostl, 2022).

Conflicts and tensions may be sparked again by competition for resources, which would only worsen the situation. As water becomes more scarce due to climate change and population displacement, disputes over such a resource are more likely to break out (Zeitoun & Warner, 2020). For example, conflicts have surged a new in Iraq over who takes the water, indicating more cooperative and representative forms of governance. This is highlighted by the UNDP (2022). Therefore, to prevent the recurrence of disputes, governments should enact laws that foster cooperative resource management, taking into account these dynamics.

No discussion of water governance in post-conflict situations would be completed without a look at the role of international actors and relief organisation. It is clear that external aid is often required, yet it also introduces new difficulties in terms of policy implementation and governance (Conca, 2012). This would be the dependence on foreign assistance that weakens local capabilities and governance systems, possibly because of the tendency of donor agencies to put immediate humanitarian needs above long-term sustainable governance. As a result, international parties may have competing interests, which could make it harder to design successful national policy.

In sum, post-conflict water management is a labyrinth that demands flexible policy responses. It is, therefore, imperative that addressing the fragmentation of governance institutions, regulation of rivalry over resources, and encouragement of cooperation among varied stakeholders shall be the ways to go in ensuring that there is sustainable and equitable water management in post-conflict environments. Design policies that will successfully and efficiently underpin recovery and stability by realizing the interlinkage of water governance with broader social, political, and environmental factors.

Role of Government Policy in Water Governance

It defines the nature of water governance from the distribution of resources to the involvement of stakeholders, in post-conflict

countries through government policy. Effective policies of water governance will involve the establishment of institutional and legal frameworks that allow for sustainable management. These policies detail how the allocation of water resources will be carried out, how any resultant conflicts are managed, and at what level access is give. The establishment of transparent legal frameworks concerning the rights and governance over water resources in post-conflict countries, among many, has twin goals: firstly, to restore public trust in governmental institutions and secondly, the just distribution of resources (Meissner, 2021).

One of the key features of effective water governance is ensuring that decision-making is inclusive, allowing for the participation of all stakeholders. Effective governance is more likely to emerge from policies encouraging participation from all relevant stakeholders, especially at the community level, as noted by Ostrom (2011). Participation from the community in water management promotes responsibility and ownership, two qualities cardinal for long-term resource management. Supplementing formal governance structures with local knowledge and practices often yields policies that are more context-sensitive to represent the realities of people that decisions on resource management affect (Swain & Jägerskog, 2018).

Unfortunately, it is often very difficult for a government in the immediate aftermath of the conflict to formulate and carry out an effective water governance programme because of institutional capacity and financial reasons. Lack of trained individuals, financial resources, and infrastructure inhibits comprehensive policies being formulated and effectively enforced (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, 2022). The setting up of reliable systems for managing water resources while addressing urgent humanitarian needs is quite challenging in post-conflict environments where government institutions are still struggling to recover from the war, such as South Sudan (UNDP, 2022).

Water governance projects, if underlined by relevant government policies and in keeping with international norms and standards, can become even more legitimate and successful. According to Pahl-Wostl (2022), it is necessary that politicians be willing to adapt some guiding principles from the international framework-the Sustainable Development Goals. The latter, referring to long-term sustainability, have given specific focus to access to water and its management. Governments that embrace such frameworks might go a long way to help in the recovery and stability of nations after violence; using them as a foundation, comprehensive initiatives could be extended both to short-term needs and long-term sustainability.

Finally, there are many moving parts to government policy regarding water governance after a conflict, and it's about finding a balance between addressing urgent humanitarian needs and the long-term sustainable management objectives. If they want to construct governance frameworks that function, policymakers should put inclusivity, creating capacity, and conformity with international standards first. This would help governments manage the resource management challenges, social cohesion, and resiliency in post-conflict areas by increasing stakeholders' participation and tapping their expertise at the local levels.

Challenges in Policy Implementation

Most post-conflict regions face many challenges which make the implementation of water governance strategies more difficult and exacerbate the existing problems. One of the major challenges is inadequate funding to support policy implementation. Many post-conflict governments face severe economic conditions that make investment in infrastructure, training, and capacity-building activities, which are a must for good water governance, quite challenging (Meissner, 2021). For instance, the government of Afghanistan has not been able to effectively enforce water management regulations due to continuous security and economic instability.

Consequently, there has been massive waste of resources and a loss of public confidence in the government's ability (UNDP, 2022).

Other factors contributing to the complexity in achieving proper coherent water policies may involve those related to a fragmented pattern of governance systems. For most post-conflict nations, overlapping duties and conflicting mandates occur because so many governmental and non-governmental organisations take different roles in managing the sectors of water management (Swain & Jägerskog, 2018). This disintegration may promote ineffective governance, even conflicts over resources, leading to the confusion of stakeholders and hence making decision-making more challenging. Besides, without one comprehensive policy framework, the tracking and assessment of different projects' results are getting tougher, thus making it difficult to change the track where necessary (Zeitoun & Warner, 2020).

Already, water governance regulations are hard to implement because of a lack of reliable data and information. Decisions and resource management can only be well-informed with up-to-date information on water availability, quality, and consumption (Pahl-Wostl, 2022). In post-conflict environments, conflict and instability often disrupt data collection efforts, leaving gaps in our understanding of local water dynamics. This, in turn, may make it very challenging for the lawmakers to craft context-sensitive community-specific measures. Inaccurate or out-of-date information could lead policymakers to make bad decisions that little alleviate water scarcity and conflict.

Other obstacles to effective policy implementation in post-conflict situations include political instability and inefficiency in the bureaucracy. Faced with competing national priorities, governments often have to grapple with water governance issues like poor institutional frameworks and a lack of political will (Conca, 2012). Corruption and powerful interests siphon resources away from water policy and other important endeavors, weakening the effectiveness of said policy. It is already hard to establish effective governance arrangements when local actors resist government-driven initiatives due to distrust from earlier conflicts.

However, the sociopolitical climate of affected areas is the very root of most problems identified with policy implementation in post-conflict water governance. Specifically, insufficient funding, fragmented governance, data deficiencies, and political turmoil all act as barriers to developing long-term, sustainable plans for water management. Capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and data collection should be among the core concerns of policymakers in the effort to establish strong governance institutions that can navigate the intricacy of post-conflict recovery.

Case Studies on Successful Water Governance Policies

Looking at various water governance systems that have worked in the past can help shed light on what works and what doesn't after a conflict. It is here that the experiences of Rwanda's water management system after the 1994 genocide really come into their own. The Rwandan government has made the development of water governance frameworks that involve all relevant parties and ensure community-level involvement a key priority. Devolution of water management responsibilities and encouragement of local-level participation in decision-making have yielded improvements in both the availability and quality of water within Rwanda (World Bank, 2017). This case illustrates how important the incorporation of community perspectives into decisions and the facilitation of local ownership are.

Another interesting case is Kosovo, where the focus of post-conflict reconstruction efforts was on rebuilding water infrastructure and the governance system. In this regard, the government and its international partners

elaborated a water management legislative framework that embraced the principles of participation, accountability, and transparency among stakeholders (Graham et al., 2019). In fact, Kosovo was able to take into consideration the inhabitants' needs and make water regulations representative for all concerned parties because of its embracing participatory techniques of governance. This case can be considered an example of how an inclusive governance system may promote long-term water sustainability in a post-conflict setting.

Apart from this, much has to be learned from the experiences of South Africa in its post-conflict water governance lessons. A dramatic paradigm shift in the 1990s over water governance focused on access and equity for those at the margin and coincided with the democratic transition of that nation. Recognizing it as a human right, South Africa's government created some regulatory framework responding to decades of disproportionate access (McDonald, 2021).These successes of such programs also show that post-conflict water management should be handled justly and fairly if it is what they want to foster unity and prosperity in the long run.

As part of the agreement that ended hostilities, efforts to improve access to water for people in rural areas were added to the framework governing the use of water. Appreciable improvements in the availability and quality of water have been achieved through a commitment by the government to participatory governance processes (Alcalá, 2021). In this setup, the local community takes part in decision-making on resource allocation and utilization. This case study demonstrates the reliance of post-conflict recovery on water governance and how peace agreements can foster collaboration and reduce conflict over limited resources.

Case studies from Rwanda, Kosovo, South Africa, and Colombia demonstrate that inclusive, participatory, and equity-focused water governance policies have assisted post-conflict communities in managing their resources well. Lessons from these types of situations should, therefore, inform policymaking efforts toward greater transparency, community involvement, and local control. Learning from past successes, governments can promote sustainable development and address the unique challenges of water administration following a war.

Methodology
Research Design
This research adopted a qualitative case study approach in evaluating the effectiveness of post-conflict water governance rules. Qualitative research methods are necessary in the study of water governance in contexts involving conflict resolution due to the complex web of relationships that involve social, political, and institutional factors. The project explore different types of stakeholders' experiences that the wide range of participants goes through in policymaking processes regarding water governance and in implementations thereof in various post-conflict states using unique case studies. Comparing different post-conflict situations, a detailed case study method has developed that captures the contextual factors impacting on water governance (Yin, 2018).

Data Collection Methods
Secondary data analysis is an important data collection procedure in this study. It requires going through what has been written by others regarding the policy of water governance in war zones. Government policy documents, international organisation reports, scholarly articles, and case studies that may shed light on the successful and unsuccessful instances of water governance in specific post-conflict contexts will also be considered for relevance. The qualitative data of interviews entailed in earlier studies used to complement the data analysis. This approach allows the researcher to collect a wide array of perspectives from

the grassroots to the water resource manager to the policymaker, thereby enriching the research in breadth and depth.(Bowen, 2009).

Data Analysis
Through this paper, using thematic analysis that, according to (Braun & Clarke, 2006), is apt in eliciting and gaining an understanding of themes and patterns within the data-we set out to review the secondary data collected from sources. These are constituted into several processes like familiarising ourselves with the data, coding the information to arrive at themes, and also going back through the themes that the researchers developed are representative. This analysis, which examines relevant issues of stakeholder participation, representation, and capacity-building related to post-conflict water governance, thus aims at highlighting those issues that most strongly influence the actual effectiveness of water governance policy in the given context. Combining the outcomes for a number of case studies done using this approach may have the advantage of bringing wider understanding to the problems and solutions involved in post-conflict water governance.

Scope and Limitations
This research principally intends to throw light on specific post-conflict regions, namely, South Africa, Rwanda, Kosovo, and Colombia. The main reason for selecting these regions is the difference in their experiences with water governance after conflicts, which therefore provides a rich comparative framework. However, the research does point out a number of caveats. In particular, with respect to areas where active hostility or instability is occurring, access to certain documents and data may be limited. In fact, there are valid concerns regarding the omission of perspectives of important stakeholders, such as marginalized communities, by use of secondary data. Keeping this limitation in mind, this research

undertakes to draw actionable inferences on the complex interplay of variables that affect the governance of water in the post-conflict period.

Findings and Discussion

Policy Impact on Water Governance
The results show that water governance in post-conflict regions is heavily influenced by government policies, which may be beneficial or negative in their impact. There has been a marked improvement in the results of policies that promote transparency, public involvement, and inclusive leadership. The interests of different stakeholder groups responded well, and the implementation of appropriate regulatory frameworks contributed to the success in enhanced water resource management in Kosovo (Graham et al., 2019).
In the case of local stakeholders, however, top-down government actions often go awry. This is because disparities persist even when access to water has been declared a human right-for example, in South Africa-largely due to not very effective local restrictions (McDonald, 2021). These disparities emphasize the need to bring about harmony between policy goals and practical reality. To give a notion of how design features impact on outcomes, Table 1 compared the impacts of alternate water governance strategies in several post-conflict countries.

Challenges in Policy Implementation
Water governance policies can make a positive difference, but several factors make the implementation of such policies quite challenging in post-conflict situations. The inability of government agencies to effectively implement and monitor policies due to lack of finances is one of the major challenges. Insufficient funding might also relate to poor infrastructure investment and maintenance, further deteriorating either the quality or accessibility of water. According to

Conca (2012), political instability and weak institutional frameworks further reduce governance capability and make it difficult to implement rules or meaningfully engage stakeholders.

Community involvement is at once a key enabler and major challenge for good water governance. In many post-conflict countries, past resentments and mistrust between communities and government agencies can make collaboration problematic. For instance, in Colombia, the lingering opposition from past hostilities inhibits the effective involvement of local communities in decision-making processes (Alcalá, 2021). These challenges highlight the importance of trust-building and the need to ensure that governance structures are inclusive.

Data shortfalls also make it difficult to implement policies more often than not. Due to post-conflict environments, water resource, consumption, and community needs data is missing, hence hampering policies being scientifically determined. Because of such gaps in data, the policy framer will have a tough time knowing what the current programs result in or what the regions most problematic. The communities might end up with ill-planned treatments owing to this gap in data, which would not help root out the core problems (Bowen, 2009).

In spite of all this, there are still many challenges to overcome, even if government policies can positively affect water governance in post-conflict areas. Resource limitations need to be overcome, governance capabilities enhanced, community participation increased, and data collection activities improved if water governance policies are to be effectively implemented. You can see a summary of the major challenges identified in the analysis in Table 2.

Source: (Adapted from McDonald, 2021)

	infrastructure	and grants
Governance Capacity	Weak institutions and political instability	Strengthen local governance structures
Community Involvement	Historical grievances and mistrust	Build trust through dialogue and inclusive practices
Data Gaps	Scarcity of reliable data on water resources	Implement comprehensive data collection initiatives

Comparative Analysis

Common difficulties and best practices that affect water governance in various post-conflict regions are compared through findings. Improvement in stakeholder engagement and community participation to ensure better availability of water and its management can be viewed in countries such as Kosovo and Rwanda. According to World Bank (2017), community-based water management initiatives in Rwanda have resulted in more accountability to the local levels and responsiveness to community requests. In Kosovo, the country's ability to put in place a legal framework allowing multi-stakeholder involvement in decision-making has led to increased collaboration between various agencies involved in the management of water (Graham et al., 2019).

In spite of passing the legislation that recognized the right to water, South Africa and Colombia faced serious setbacks in efforts towards good water governance. According to McDonald (2021), ineptitude in service delivery is characterized by historical injustices, along with a dire shortage of resources in country municipalities. Many communities remain unrepresented in

policymaking despite having strong inclusive governance; this largely stems from years of built-up distrust and ungrinding violence (Alcalá, 2021).

Implications for Sustainable Development

Larger SDGs and lasting peace can only be achieved when efficient water governance is in place in post-conflict cases. Among the SDGs relevant to water governance, Goal 6 seeks to ensure that everyone has access to water and sanitation and can manage them effectively. This can be achieved by the post-conflict regions through the establishment of fair and representative water governance systems that will ensure access to clean water and sanitation services for all members of the communities (Conca, 2012). Community involvement in water governance, as witnessed in Rwanda and Kosovo, can increase the availability of water that will, in turn, positively contribute to health and general well-being within the community.

In addition, resilient economic development can be ensured in post-conflict contexts through good water governance. Agriculture tends to be the dominant economic activity in these regions; as such, access to reliable water resources is a key determinant of crop productivity. In line with SDG 2 aimed at ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture, post-conflict countries can enhance agricultural growth, food security, and livelihoods through investment in sustainable methods of water management. More importantly, good governance in the water sector creates stability that could attract investment towards rebuilding an economy and also in assisting the peace-building processes (Bowen, 2009).

Finally, good management of water contributes to environmental sustainability; thus, a central tenet of the SDGs. Therefore, integrated water resource management that considers ecological impacts should be in place in post-conflict regions in order to protect their water ecosystems for longevity.

This accomplishes two things at once: one, the conservation of biodiversity, and two, it fortifies communities against the effects of climate change (SDG 13) (Graham et al., 2019).

In the aftermath of wars, there is an opportunity for reflection on what worked and what did not, how good governance played its role in long-term peace and development through water management. In post-conflict societies, nations and organisations are struggling to get back to normal life; it is here that inclusive, effective water governance plays a very important role in attaining lasting peace and sustainable development.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

There are many lessons that were learned from research on water governance policies implemented after conflicts that policymakers and stakeholders in water resources management would do well to reflect upon. First and foremost, water governance has to be part of any integrated approach to peace-building. Water governance requires collaboration between the health, agricultural, and infrastructural sectors. In this way, the policies on water governance will be aligned with the overall development goals of post-conflict recovery. This calls for inter-agency collaboration by policymakers in post-conflict countries.

Moreover, community involvement in policies is also very important at a governmental level. Many water governance initiatives depend on people's participation at the local level, who are usually the first to suffer the consequences of such initiatives. Community involvement in decision-making tending ensures accountability and transparency as well as better relations between the citizenry and government. Policymakers should support participatory procedures that allow the voices of local stakeholders to be heard, so that policies are reflective of reality.

The organisations and the local governments responsible for governing water should also invest in capacity building. In most cases, post-conflict institutional structures are weak and lack any potential for policy implementation. The capacity and competence of institutions at the local level can be developed through government investment in training and resources. In this way, policies enacted will be implemented correctly, with sustainable practices in managing water ensured.

Lastly, through continuous monitoring and evaluation, water governance regulations will be able to identify and adjust their tactics even in mid-stream. Strong monitoring mechanisms need to be put in place that can assess the effectiveness of policies, identify new issues, and make course corrections. A commitment to a cycle of assessment and improvement will better help governments meet the ever-changing needs of their citizens after a conflict has been brought to an end.

Conclusion

In conclusion, long-term stability and rehabilitation of war-torn areas depend on the interaction between official policies and water governance in the post-conflict era. The results of this study confirm the need for the development of a plan to satisfy current and future needs in water supply. The promotion of integrated forms of water governance within more general processes of peace-building may allow governments to establish more resilient and adaptable water resource management frameworks in post-conflict situations.

Besides, community involvement in the formation of policies needs to be given the attention it deserves for water governance to be inclusive and responsive. Community involvement empowers citizens, enhances accountability, and ownership of water resources, hence better governance. In addition, listening to the ones who will be most affected by the policies on water governance can help legitimize or improve them.

These recommendations can teach policymakers a lot about how to manage water resources better in areas that have recently seen war. Capacity building, facilitating inter-agency collaboration, and close monitoring mechanisms are some of the ways governments can support the sustainable management of water resources. In this way, effective management of water will enable the realisation of communities' dreams of development, stability, and peace.

For the next couple of years, experts in the field need to keep digging into the complex issue of water governance in post-conflict settings. They should look at the impact of policies and innovative approaches to the resilience of water governance in the long term in their future studies. It is then, and only then, that communities hardest hit by conflicts will have a fighting chance of rebuilding and thriving long into the future.

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