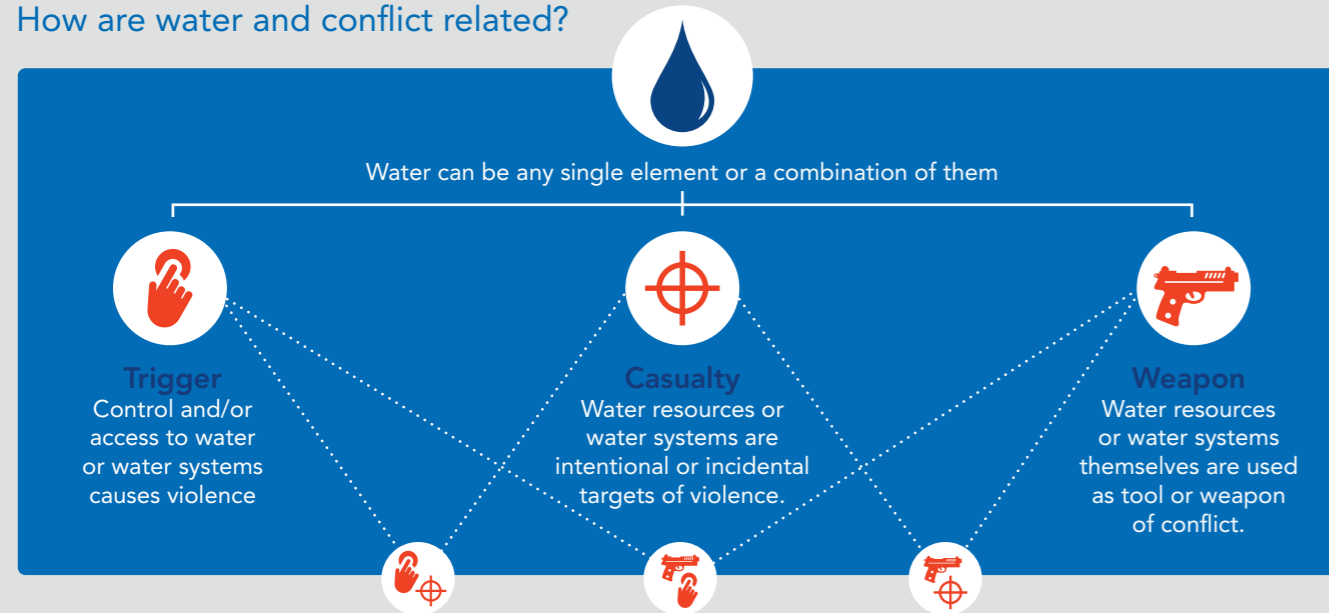




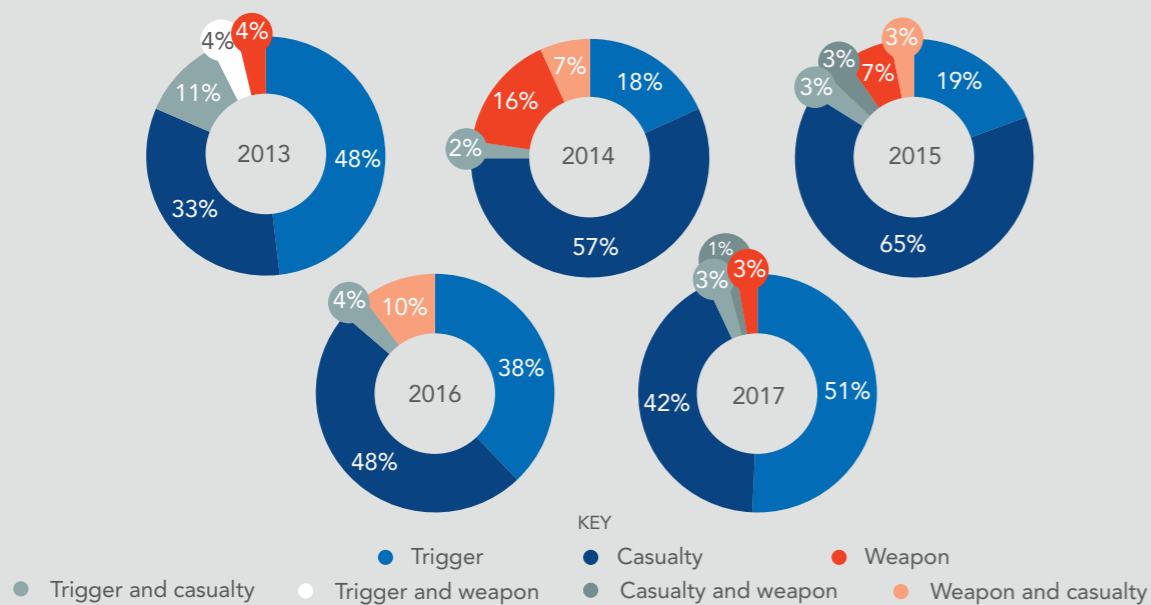
Water and conflict

Water is increasingly a trigger, weapon and casualty of conflict—with significant humanitarian consequences. Water has not traditionally been considered a primary driver of global conflict; instead, it has been viewed as a compounding variable that exacerbates existing social, economic and political tensions. However, old understandings and norms of cooperation around water issues are being tested by climate change and population growth. Dramatic swings in seasonal water supplies threaten regional, local and global stability. In 2017, water played a major role in conflict in at least 45 countries, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. Yemen had the most water-related conflicts with at least 28 individual events reported.

How are water and conflict related?



Trends in water-related conflicts



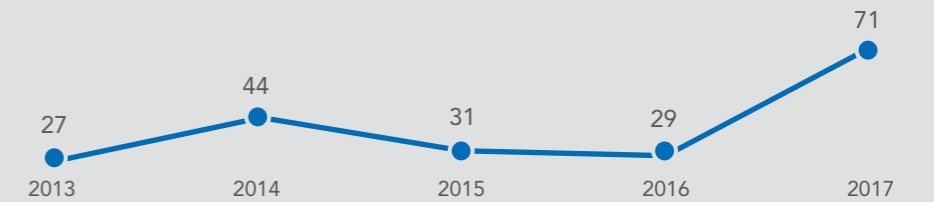
Sources: Circle of Blue, The Pacific Institute, Vector Center

Countries and regions typically settle water management disputes peacefully. Long-standing best practices exist for international cooperation, such as the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, which divides the Indus River tributaries between India and Pakistan. By understanding the links between water and conflict, policymakers and practitioners can better predict, understand and react to water-related conflicts across the globe, thereby preventing humanitarian crises.

Trends in water-related conflicts

FIGURE 9

From 2014 through 2017, the number of conflict events triggered by water increased, while water remained a critical casualty of conflict.



Water conflict hotspots in 2017

The icons show examples of how water was related to conflict events.

