



Middle Río Grande

Case Study.

Argentina Young Leaders Institute—Peace through Policymaking





PROBLEM STATEMENT

Water as a fundamental human right.

Disproportionate impact of inequality in water access in vulnerable population.

Impact of water scarcity in food sovereignty, agriculture, and health.

Native American tribes have senior-most water rights under federal law.

Causes

1

Water consumption

- 1.1. Human-induced
 - Lack of consumption regulations and enforcement
 - Political stagnation and institutional gridlock
 - Lack of public awareness
- 1.2. Nature-induced
 - Drought

2

Water supply

- 2.1. Human-induced
 - Wildfires
 - Middle Rio Grande compact
- 2.2. Nature-induced
 - Riparian ecosystem
 - High temperatures and overall dry climate
 - Geological structure and terrain





1. Environment and Sustainability - Health in all policies (HiAP)



Solution 1:

Promote incentives that normalize irregular domestic and commercial water uses

Contribute both to raising awareness about consumption and facilitate enforcement mechanisms in The Middle Rio Grande.



1.1 Waive local taxes from farmers and households that **install meters** in their lands and provide access to **collectable data**.



1.2 Establish a traffic light system that would show people how much they are actually consuming.

To foster awareness about the monetary and the environmental impact of their consumption.



1.3 Include graphic representation of a standardized measure of water volume in the consumption reports.

To raise awareness about the vast quantities of water that are consumed.



Solution 2:

Strengthen the state agency charged with the implementation of the Water Data Act and the state agencies that own relevant data that is not accessible, integrated or compiled, with their data gathering and data communication efforts. This area should be nurtured by other stakeholders that today have different databases, with different and particular approaches to the problem.

Raise awareness and influence the public agenda on water issues in NM



2.1 Establish agreements with Rio Grande valley **universities and stakeholders** to strengthen existing databases.



2.2 Start a new line of research to study and develop new technologies for water metering. Apart from providing new solutions to the existing problem, it will also create a rippling effect that will build capacity in other similar contexts through knowledge transfer.



2.3 Establish a communication group across the state water agencies to focus on generating **awareness through media pieces** that aim at decision-makers and the general public.



2. Justice, Equity, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion (JEADI)



Solution 1: Define “public welfare”

Potential future legal actions and substantive protections to challenge the status quo



Identify the legal protections for the Middle Rio Grande

Federal laws and New Mexico’s Constitution.



Align with legal pro bono groups for a future legal complaint

Held v. Montana.



Promote the adoption of a definition of “public welfare” to protect the water rights

Interpreting as the stewardship of natural environments and of human communities in order to enhance social, economic, psychological, cultural and physical functioning, now and in the future.



Solution 2: Reform New Mexico's Water Governance

Improve water management agencies capacity to enforce laws and water rights, monitor water usage, and plan ahead to address water uncertainties from a JEADI perspective.



Build capacity at state & local level

By providing adequate resources, technical training, and staffing.



Unify monitoring and reporting systems

To better track water permitting, usage and unauthorized activities.



Mechanisms to detect illegal water use

And streamline processes for issuing fines, penalties, or revoking water rights when necessary.



Develop transparent and accessible systems

For registering and managing water rights & establish procedures for regular review and updating.



Solution 3: Improve water supply and resilience of the most vulnerable groups.

Ensure that all communities have equal access to safe, clean, affordable drinking water and are resilient in the face of climate change.



Settle Pueblo's water rights

Assess historic and current water use, cultural and agricultural needs, and future development considerations.



Help local communities develop water resilience infrastructure projects

To promote job creation, climate resiliency, and improve health outcomes and food security.



Counter environmental injustices related to water contamination

Conduct research, discourage allocation of pollutant-companies & implement programs to foster neighborhood recovery.



Solution 4: Foster collaboration with the academic sector to produce interdisciplinary research

Utilize this research to inform policies that address water scarcity and increase climate mitigation funding to disadvantaged communities.



Establish an interdisciplinary research consortium



Develop data-driven policy recommendations



Monitor and evaluate policy implementation



Develop transparent and accessible systems



Conduct comprehensive research



Increase climate mitigation funding



Enhance community engagement and education



Solution 5:

Reinforce community participation.

Actively promote Rio Grande Pueblos & small rural communities participation in the planning and policy-making process.



Establish inclusive stakeholder engagement

Facilitate inclusive public consultations and forums with language and cultural accessibility support.



Provide training on water resiliency and climate change

To empower communities with skills and knowledge.



Ensure transparent & accessible communication.

Use clear channels, user-friendly materials, and language translation services.



Co-create adaptation strategies with communities

Involve community members actively in generating data and identifying strategies to identify inequities and address specific needs.



3. Public and private alliances



Economic transition towards profitable and environmentally sustainable productive activities.



Establish a monetary incentive program

To promote the efficient use of available resources



Creation of a new authority

With the capacity to effectively address the water scarcity issue. It will be shared-manage with the State Engineering.



Collaboration with universities

To facilitate the training of professionals with specific knowledge and skills related to efficient water use



Economic benefits and job creation

The implementation of these policies would lead to increased economic benefits for farmers.



Water Advocacy Campaign

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New Mexico
Water Advocacy

Water is a community problem

Research continues to find problems and propose solutions that don't reach the people.

How do we empower people to take action?



A community-driven **solution** for a community problem

“Water is life, do your part”

The only way to generate sustainable solutions is to understand water as a collective action problem and empower the people to take action.



Politicians and decision makers

Measure and rule this problem.



Urban community

Be responsible about your water consumption



Rural community

Transition to low consumption water crops and farming techniques.

Roadmap: Our actions

1

Diagnosis and social listening

2

Stak eholders map and alliances

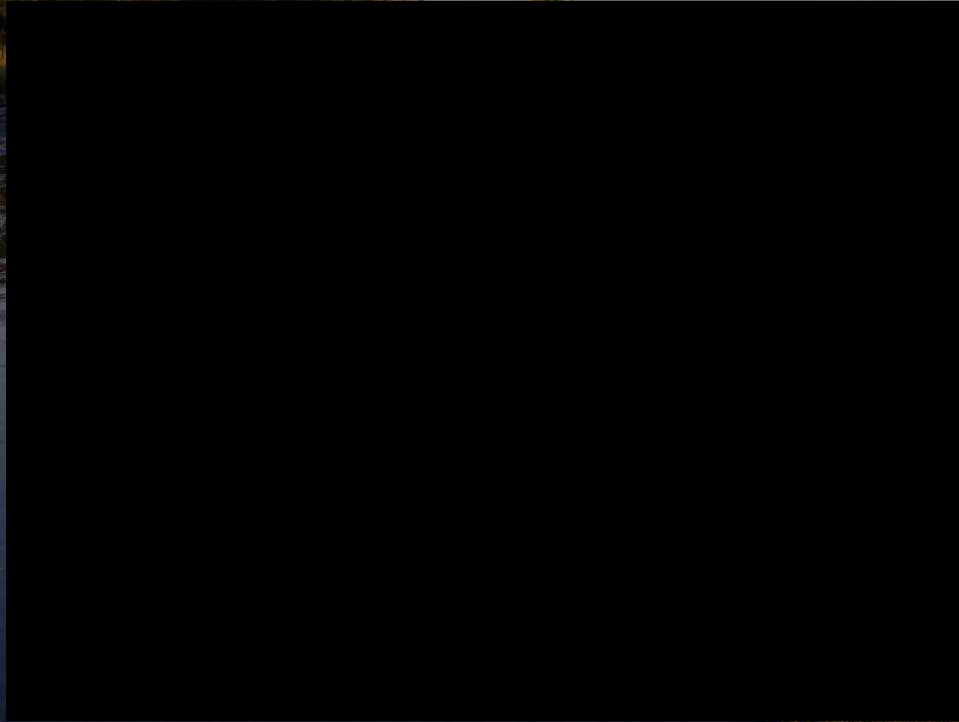
3

Strategy and goals

4

Action plan

Campaign video preview





Thank you for your attention!

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