

## Session 1 Concept Note

Session Title	Co-Hosts
<p><b>The intersection of climate and conflict risk: Accelerating action to achieve resilience</b></p>	<p><b>Lead organisations:</b> International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</p> <p><b>Co-hosting organisations:</b> Mercy Corps, Wetlands International, Stockholm Climate Security Hub, Near East Foundation, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</p>
Date and Time	Venue
<p>22 September 2019 10:30 - 12:30</p>	<p>Main Auditorium</p>
<p><b>I. Brief Session Description</b></p> <p>Climate disasters and climate change can act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating conflict and fragility, while conflict and fragility can amplify vulnerability to climate stress. This climate-conflict nexus can lock populations into a perpetual cycle of poverty, fragility and risk. This session will share experiences and commitments from different stakeholders living and operating in this intersection of climate and conflict risk, highlighting a suite of actions that are being deployed – and scaled – to build climate resilience in fragile, conflict-affected settings.</p>	
<p><b>II. The Challenge and Opportunity</b></p>	
<p>Climate change is often described as a threat multiplier, responsible for aggravating existing stressors such as poverty, environmental degradation, and political instability, which together can lead to conflict and violence. While the evidence base for understanding these links is growing, this deterministic narrative risks overlooking another dynamic in the climate-conflict nexus: climate change is exacerbating the vulnerability of millions of people living in fragile or conflict affected environments. Indeed, the most severe impacts of climate change, including climate-related disasters and slow onset events, are not necessarily in locations where climate change is most significant, but rather where capacities to deal with these changes are eroded by conflict, fragility, unbalanced development and natural resource management choices.</p> <p>The relationship between climate change and conflict is complicated, context-specific and deeply nuanced. A drought that is manageable in a peaceful and well-resourced society may be catastrophic for much poorer, conflict-affected countries. Climate scientists agree the outbreak and persistence of armed conflict significantly affects adaptive capacity (Adger et al., 2014). Specifically, conflict and fragility, from inter-personal violence through to interstate war, are known to have differential but negative consequences for societal and government capacities to manage climate-related disaster risk (Peters, 2017). Moreover, it is in locations affected by conflict, where governance may be fractured, livelihood</p>	

## Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

options undermined, and mobility constrained, that vulnerability to climate impacts is highest. So while climate stress may be a driver of conflict and fragility, conflict and fragility can amplify vulnerability to climate stress, locking populations into a perpetual cycle of poverty and risk.

The collective ambition set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals will not be realised unless this convergence of climate and conflict risk is addressed. Current estimates show that more than 80 percent of the world's poorest could be living in fragile contexts by 2030 -- contexts that will also be dealing with more frequent and intense extreme climate events (OECD 2018). Populations living in conflict-affected and fragile environments, along with other actors governing and operating in these contexts, need more and better support. At present, however, a limited percentage of all climate change adaptation funding, whether from institutional donors or innovative mechanisms, is earmarked for fragile contexts; mechanisms for effectively delivering integrated investments into these fragile and conflict-affected settings must be designed, and the funding scaled up.

Humanitarian and development actors must be ready to respond to climate-aggravated crises, recognizing that they have a role to play in supporting climate change adaptation pathways for people in these highly fragile contexts (e.g. ICRC, 2018). This includes climate-proofing humanitarian and development programming, supporting mitigation by being mindful of and working to reduce their own carbon footprint, and investing in and supporting inclusive and equitable resource governance and climate-adapted economies in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Humanitarian and development actors must also work to build resilience by supporting the restoration and sustainable use of the ecosystems upon which countless livelihoods depend, to prevent overexploitation and conflict over access to and provision of natural resources, including water.

The intersection of conflict and climate risks puts additional pressure on local and national systems and institutions, through a number of connected pathways, frequently with devastating impacts on livelihoods, general security, and the wellbeing of already-vulnerable communities. This dynamic has been witnessed in recent years in a range of conflict areas, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, northern Nigeria, Mali and Somalia. This session aims to build off the existing evidence base linking climate change, conflict and other threats, and broaden its acceptance by the wider development community in order to move towards concrete actions and policy recommendations. Integrated actions that bolster environmental concerns and sustain ecosystems can contribute to conflict prevention, as can effective disaster risk governance and water management across river basins. Sufficient evidence exists to suggest that both climate-resilient peacebuilding interventions and conflict-sensitive climate change are required to support communities as they develop the capacity to anticipate and prevent future shocks and stresses. Existing and future actions to meet this challenge will be explained by panelists, make regional, national and local resilience-building in conflict and fragile contexts more tangible.

### III. Objectives

The purpose of the session is to highlight and explore effective responses to the interactions between conflict and climate, in order to shape global policy and add urgency to the need for addressing conflict and climate in fragile contexts. Speakers will reflect on the challenge, importance and urgency of addressing vulnerability to both climate and conflict. They will share lessons in addressing climate risks in conflict areas, and highlight the role of scale and governance in addressing conflict and climate. And they will share a call to action for the wider community based on today's pressing needs and future trends.

## Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

### IV. Key messages

The following key messages will be focused upon during the session:

- The relationship between climate change and conflict is nuanced, context-specific, dynamic and active, with consequences being felt today
- Conflict and fragility increase vulnerabilities to climate change, and undermine the capacities of populations to cope with these changes, and as a result both need to be factored in to climate change programming
- While not in and of itself a driver of conflict, climate change can act as a threat multiplier, interacting with existing drivers - including weak governance, poverty, and history - to exacerbate conflict risks
- To address these dynamics, development and humanitarian interventions need to be climate-proofed, and climate solutions must be conflict-sensitive. More broadly, climate change adaptation should be aligned with conflict prevention and recovery ambitions
- This is relevant not only for effective development, humanitarian and climate assistance, but also in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and will require the commitment of significant financial support to help the most vulnerable to manage changing and overlapping risks – support which is currently limited in those fragile contexts most in need
- Action is happening in this space, namely within the climate security, foreign policy, and UN security council arenas. But there is a role to play for others not yet included, such as the environmental peacebuilding, conservation and disaster risk reduction communities. A multidisciplinary approach will be needed to tackle current and future risks

### V. Format of the Session

Following an introduction from the moderator, the session will be broadly divided into three mini-sessions, each focused on a key theme in the interaction between climate and conflict. The moderator will remain on the stage across all three mini-sessions, to avoid too much moving around. Each session will feature short interventions from the panelists on the theme, including a specific commitment from their organization to address conflict-climate linkages, followed by questions to the broader panel on that theme from the moderator and the audience. The mini-session themes are:

1. **Programming best practice:** Sharing successes and lessons from programs simultaneously addressing climate and the drivers of fragility and conflict
2. **Governance:** Interventions focused on how to address conflict-climate issues at different scales of governance, from national to regional
3. **Future trends and a call to action:** Exploring key issues to watch for, and issuing a call to action for donors, governments, and civil society.

The mini-sessions will build toward a call to action and a proposed collective way forward from the session co-organizers, followed by a question and answer period with the audience.

## Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

VI. Session Agenda		
Time	Agenda Item	Who
20 min	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Live trivia challenge to spur audience engagement on the topic, using Mentimeter</p> <p>Introducing the session and the two perspectives on climate and conflict nexus (programming, governance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nkem Ifejika, Nigeria (<i>moderator</i>)</li> </ul>
40 min	<p><b>Programming: Best practice</b></p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To share and discuss the solutions organisations are advancing to deal with the climate-conflict nexus in their work -- i.e. what might be scaled for a resilient future -- calling out, where possible, innovations (or unexpected things that seem to be working)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercy Corps: 4 critical pathways; PEACE III; Programming Principles</li> <li>• NEF: Integrating climate and conflict responses in fragile and conflict-affected contexts</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near East Foundation: Jen Abdella, Senior Practice Area Lead</li> <li>• Mercy Corps: Maurice Amollo, Deputy Country Director</li> <li>• Wetlands International: Karounga Keita, Director, Sahel</li> <li>• SIWI: Katarina Veem, Director</li> </ul>
40 min	<p><b>Governance: Best practice</b></p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> Highlight the climate-conflict nexus beyond the local level. How are these challenges being tackled (or not) at the national, basin and regional levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IISD: National adaptation planning in fragile and conflict-affected countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IISD: Alec Crawford, Lead, Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding</li> <li>• SIPRI: Florian Krampe, Senior Researcher</li> <li>• ODI: Katie Peters, Senior Research Fellow</li> </ul>

## Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockholm Climate Security Hub / SIPRI: Regional organizations, incl. African Union</li> <li>• ODI: Disaster risk governance and risk management of climate-related disasters in fragile and conflict-affected contexts</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment: Deon Nel, Global Resilience Partnership</li> </ul>
20 min	<p>Future trends in this space and summary of commitments</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> What to watch for but, more importantly, what we can and will do to address the climate-conflict nexus.</p> <p>Closing poll</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICRC: Yves Daccord, Director General</li> </ul>