Online workshop series:

Climate change and human security:
integrating peacebuilding and climate adaptation efforts in practice

May – December 2020

POLICY BRIEF

In 2020 the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), together with adelphi and the Climate Diplomacy initiative, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office, organised two series of online workshops. The series brought together civil society experts and policymakers to discuss challenges, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations relating to how to address the linkages between climate change, conflict and peace.

The discussions were focused in particular on how to integrate peacebuilding efforts and climate resilience programming, including through initiatives bringing communities together to address the effects of climate change and prevent conflict.

This policy brief presents a summary of the key points and recommendations from the discussions in the eight workshops in the series, which took place from May to December 2020.[1]

Climate change, conflict and fragility: Increasing resilience against climate-fragility risks (19 May)

Speaker: Lukas Rüttinger (adelphi)
Respondent: Dr Ayan Mahamoud (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)

Mobilising decision-makers on water scarcity-induced conflict risks: the Water, Peace and Security Partnership (28 May)

Speakers: Camille Marquette (International Alert) and Rolien Sasse (Water, Peace and Security Partnership)
Respondent: Katariina Leinonen (European External Action Service)

Integrating peacebuilding and climate change mitigation efforts in natural resource management (9 June)

Speaker: Vincent Omunyin (World Vision Kenya)
Respondent: Margot Loof (Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid))

The need for climate-sensitive conflict analysis in peacebuilding and climate adaptation efforts (17 September)

Speaker: Lukas Rüttinger (adelphi)
Respondent: Emma Whitaker (Mercy Corps)

Building community resilience to climate change and conflict: Lessons from the Pacific (24 September)

Speakers: Coral Pasisi (The Pacific Community) and Kate Higgins (Conciliation Resources)
Respondent: Kevin Petrini (UN Development Programme in the Pacific)

'MARSABIT': First documentary screening and interactive discussion with the audience (1 October)

Speaker: Vincent Omunyin (World Vision Kenya)
Respondent: Simone Di Vicenz (Christian Aid)

Climate change, gender and violence in urban areas: Lessons from Pakistan (3 December)

Speaker: Dr Gulnaz Anjum (Institute of Business Administration)
Respondent: Dr Beatrice Mosello (adelphi) and Stefania Minervino (European Commission)

'MARSABIT': Documentary screening and high level panel discussion on peacebuilding and climate adaptation (10 December)

Speakers: Ambassador Thomas Ossowski (Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU), Elina Bardram (European Commission), Marc Fiedrich (European Commission), Obadiah Kisang (World Vision Kenya) and Sonya Reines-Djivanides (EPLO)

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[1] The contents of this policy brief do not necessarily reflect the views of EPLO, adelphi, the Climate Diplomacy initiative or the German Federal Foreign Office.

I. Understanding the linkages between the climate crisis, peace and conflict

➢ The interactions between climate change, peace and conflict are complex; there is no simple and systematic causal link between climate change and conflict, even though there is a growing confluence between fragility and vulnerability to climate change (70% of the most climate-vulnerable countries are also in the most fragile quartile).

➢ Climate change can exacerbate drivers of conflict and function as a threat multiplier, and its effects can constitute root causes of conflict. Correspondingly, conflicts can undermine the resilience of communities to the effects of climate change.

➢ The need to address and adapt to the effects of climate change can also present opportunities for fostering co-operation and building peace between different actors (at different levels). In some cases, these integrated efforts can also contribute to climate change mitigation.

➢ Climate change is increasingly converging with a number of other political, social, economic and environmental pressures and shocks which can increase risks to peace (including rising inequalities and uneven economic development, governance problems, population growth, environmental degradation driven by other causes, urbanisation, etc.).

➢ There are diverse examples of compound climate-fragility risks which illustrate how climate change can contribute to conflict, and how their combined and respective effects may undermine community resilience. They include competition over local resources, livelihood insecurity, extreme weather events and disasters, volatile food prices and provision, pressures on transboundary water management, rising sea levels and coastal degradation, and the unintended effects of responses to climate change. These risks:

- Are not hypothetical; the effects of climate change on conflict are already being experienced around the world. Likewise, conflict already undermines communities' resilience to climate-fragility risks.
- Can be interlinked, can mutually reinforce each other, and can vary significantly between contexts with respect to their nature, their scope and their effects
- Tend to exacerbate the marginalisation and exclusion of typically vulnerable groups, including women, young people, ethnic and religious minorities, people with disabilities, etc.
- Highlight that climate change can have an impact on conflict at different levels and across borders (e.g. by having a shrinking effect on transboundary bodies of water).
- Can vary significantly between contexts, including contexts that are geographically adjacent.

➢ Populations which experience the effects of climate change and conflict have diverse, interlinked needs which need to be understood (and addressed) together and not through silos.

➢ It is particularly important to understand (and address) these effects in marginalised areas, including transboundary areas with fragile ecosystems that lack access to public service delivery.

II. Analysing the linkages between the climate crisis, peace and conflict

- It is necessary for analyses and risk assessments to integrate climate change, peace/conflict and gender in order to provide adequate understandings of contexts and to help identify and design appropriate engagements – including peacebuilding actions, climate adaptation actions and engagements integrating both.

- International actors must base their engagements on climate- and gender-sensitive conflict analysis (at a minimum), or on gender-sensitive, sector-neutral integrated analysis (with conflict analysis and climate analysis integrated from the start of the process) (if possible).[2]

- Such analysis should:
  - Be a continuous process to inform engagements rather than a one-off exercise.
  - Be participatory in nature, integrating input from and involving local civil society and populations, including diverse women and men and marginalised groups.
  - Be carried out by experts from both fields working together, with experts from other fields when relevant (e.g. social psychology, urban planning, etc.).
  - Integrate climate science and analysis of the lived realities of local populations, blending quantitative and qualitative data,[3] and ensuring that data is disaggregated to account for gender, age, socio-economic status, religious affiliation, ethnicity, etc., whenever possible.
  - Identify drivers of sustainable peace and climate adaptation, and capacities for / initiatives to strengthen resilience, in addition to identifying climate-conflict drivers and vulnerabilities.
  - Be adapted to the contexts being analysed and to the time frames available to actors.
  - Acknowledge uncertainties and make them explicit.

- International actors should:
  - Ensure that they have (access to) the relevant expertise, including within their personnel, to ensure adequate uptake of the analysis to inform policies and engagements.
  - Ensure that the funding they provide and the time frames of projects they support allow implementing partners to carry out such analysis.
  - Support making climate analysis and predictions more accessible and easily usable in conflict and integrated analysis, including by civil society actors living in contexts affected by climate change and conflict.

- Although there is an inherent degree of uncertainty in climate forecasting, the data available on existing climatic trends and the general predictions for the next 20-30 years are sufficiently reliable to justify integrating them into analysis and using them to inform engagements.[4]

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[2] Examples of models for sector-neutral integrated analysis that were discussed included those developed or under development by adelphi and Mercy Corps.

[3] See, for example, the Climate Security Expert Network risk briefs and the Shoring up Stability report published by adelphi. Elements to examine may include weather patterns, local livelihoods, the availability of – and people's dependency on – natural resources, power distribution, governance structures, inequalities, the interactions between relevant stakeholders, local social and gender norms, environmental degradation, public service provision, the patterns of mobility of populations, social, political and economic inclusion and exclusion, informal and illicit economies, peace and conflict dynamics, historical dynamics of fragility, etc.

[4] It was noted that communities of practice are usually more comfortable with the uncertainty that they are familiar with than with the uncertainty they are not familiar with. Conflict analysts who are unfamiliar with the uncertainties relating to climate predictions should seek to understand them better, and climate analysts who are unfamiliar with the uncertainties relating to changing political environments and conflict dynamics should do the same.

III. Recommendations: integrating peacebuilding and climate change adaptation efforts

International actors which seek to contribute to human security by addressing conflict and/or the effects of climate change should:

- Systematically base their engagements on **robust climate- and gender-sensitive conflict analysis** (at a minimum) or **gender-sensitive sector-neutral integrated analysis** (if possible), in order to avoid doing harm and to have a sustainable positive impact. They should also ensure that the funding they provide to implementing partners allows them to carry out such analysis. The analysis process should:
  - Be participatory in nature and integrate input from local civil society and populations, including diverse women and men and marginalised groups.
  - Integrate diverse types of expertise and knowledge (including from local communities), blending quantitative and qualitative data, and using disaggregated data.
  - Identify drivers of sustainable peace and climate adaptation, and capacities for / initiatives to strengthen resilience, in addition to identifying climate-conflict drivers and vulnerabilities.

- Promote and support **holistic engagements which integrate both peacebuilding and climate change adaptation**, including through integrated programming. Integrated engagements can create synergies and mutual co-benefits across both dimensions. Integrated engagements should:
  - Be based on **a robust overall theory of change** which includes a vision for the long term (and anticipates possible future climate change-induced and conflict-induced changes in the context), and that they are monitored and evaluated with respect to their impact across both dimensions.
  - Be decided, designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated in **a participatory and inclusive manner**, with the meaningful involvement of affected stakeholders at all stages, particularly local communities and civil society, and diverse women and men, including young women and men, and marginalised groups.
  - Systematically integrate **gender**, support and respond to **the specific needs of the most vulnerable**, and address **marginalisation**.
  - Involve **strengthening trust, co-operation and relationships between stakeholders** (e.g. by contributing to social cohesion within and between communities, by building trust between communities and authorities, by fostering collaboration between partner governments, etc.).

- Support **the initiatives of local actors** to address climate change and build peace, and help strengthen **their capacities for resilience** (and for public advocacy), including through **the provision of adequate, flexible, integrated and long-term funding and capacity building, and by sharing relevant information** (including analysis and forecasts) relating to conflict and the effects of climate change.

- Help to build, strengthen and support **early warning mechanisms which integrate conflict prevention and climate change adaptation**, at different levels (particularly at the local level). These mechanisms should be supported in their capacity to gather, to process and to disseminate information relating to both peace/conflict and the effects of climate change.

- Help to build, strengthen and support **inclusive governance structures which integrate peacebuilding and climate change adaptation**, at different levels. They should pay special attention to ensuring that diverse women (including young women) and marginalised groups are able to participate meaningfully in these structures. This includes:
  - Supporting community-based governance structures for the management of natural resources, including land, forests and water.
  - Ensuring that governance structures are accountable to populations, and address the needs of all people and communities.
  - Engaging with relevant public authorities to ensure that informal and community-based governance structures are adequately linked to, and supported by, formal and public institutions.
- Pursue a number of other entry points for integrated engagements, including in relation to contributing to **resilient, diverse and sustainable livelihoods**, addressing the **structural causes of inequalities and marginalisation**, engaging in **peace-positive disaster risk reduction**, providing access to peace and climate-sensitive **education**, promoting **effective and equitable service delivery** by public authorities, and supporting **public information campaigns**. As part of these efforts, peacebuilding and climate change adaptation may also be integrated with various other fields of activity.
- Support integrated engagements in **different types of contexts** affected by climate-fragility risks, including urban contexts.
- **Co-operate at the regional and international levels** in order to devise and promote transboundary responses to climate-fragility risks where relevant.
- Promote **good and inclusive governance** in partner governments, and the design and effective implementation of **national integrated action plans**.
- **Refrain from militarising their responses to climate-fragility risks**, as militarised responses can have unintended and counter-productive impacts, including on the resilience of local communities to both climate change and violent conflict.
- Encourage actors which are engaging in integrated engagements to **monitor, evaluate, document and communicate their impact, experiences, lessons learned and best practices**, in order to allow others to learn from them, to foster further collaboration across the peacebuilding and climate change adaptation fields, and to increase the visibility of integrated engagements.
- Be ready to **take risks** in their programming, to help **foster innovation and ingenuity** in integrated engagements.