



TACKLING THE THREAT MULTIPLIER

Addressing the role of climate change in
conflict dynamics

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CLIMATE & CONFLICT

Our Mission

Alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.



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Where We Work

Africa

Central African Republic
Democratic Republic
of the Congo
Ethiopia
Kenya
Liberia
Mali
Morocco
Niger
Nigeria
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Tunisia
Uganda
Zimbabwe

Americas

Colombia
Guatemala
Nicaragua
United States
Haiti

Middle East

Iraq
Jordan
Lebanon
Syria
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen

Europe/Balkans

Greece
Macedonia
Serbia
Ukraine

South, East & Southeast Asia

Afghanistan
China
Democratic People's Republic
of Korea
East Timor
India
Indonesia
Japan
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines

Caucasus/Central Asia

Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan



TEAM MEMBERS

We are powered by the belief that a better world is possible. A world where people don't just live, but live better and more empowered lives.



5000 around the world



88% are nationals

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Programmatic Priorities

- Crisis Response
- Resilience
- Economic Opportunities
- Youth & Gender
- Governance
- Technology Collaborations



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We Work in Fragile Contexts



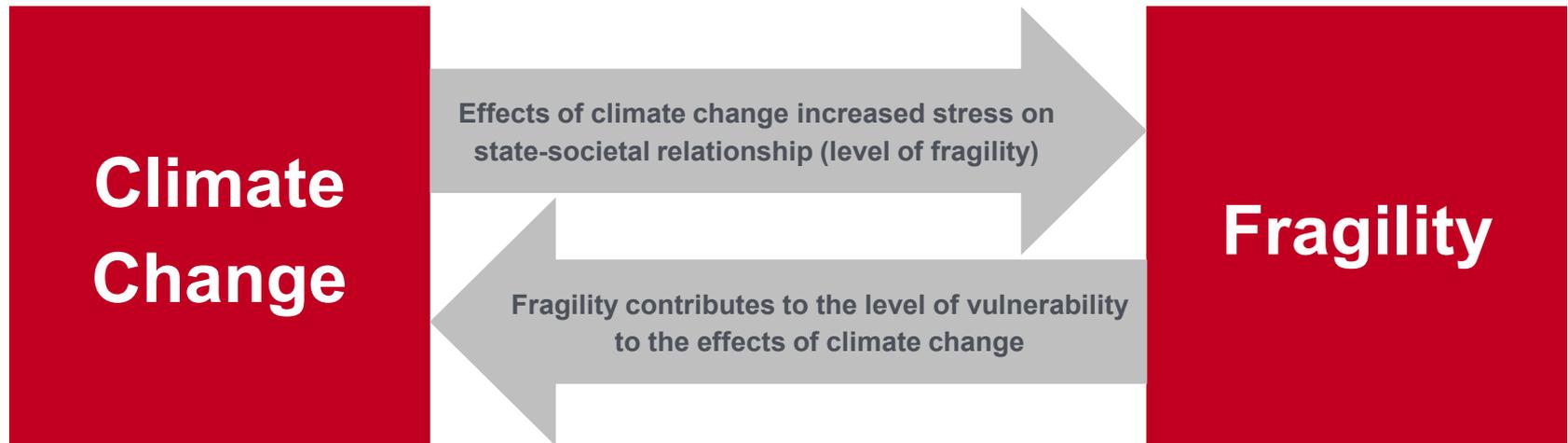
What percentage of countries ranked highly vulnerable to climate change also rank high on the fragile states index?

45%

63%

72%

Fragility & Climate Change Feedback Loop



Making the link between climate and conflict?

Macro Trends

Climate Related Shocks & Stresses

Direct & Indirect Climate Impacts

Contributing to

Climate Change

Population Growth

Environmental Degradation

Floods

Droughts

Rising Temps

Variable rainfall

Agricultural Productivity
Livelihood Security

Displacement

Food Prices

Migration

Grievances

Resource Competition

Inter-group Tension

Transboundary Tensions

Economic Inequality

Social Exclusion

Weak Institutions

History of Conflict

Social / Political Variables

Climate Conflict Pathways



EXTREME WEATHER, DISASTERS, AND DISPLACEMENT

Extreme weather events, expected to increase in frequency and intensity due to climate change, will lead to migration and displacement of vulnerable populations. In 2017, there were 30.6 million new people displaced. A study by the Overseas Development Institute found that between 2004 – 2014, “58% of disaster deaths and 34% of people affected by disasters occurred in countries that also appear in the top 30 of the Fragile States Index.”⁶ Disasters can trigger conflict in fragile settings due to perceived or real inequality in relief efforts, distribution of aid, and unwelcomed resettlement.



NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED LIVELIHOOD INSECURITY

Greater livelihood insecurity, worsened by climate variability, shifts migration patterns and exacerbates conflict over scarce resources. Climate change will alter the availability and quality of water, land, forests, and fisheries. For those dependent on these resources for their livelihoods, changes may lead to economic volatility, food insecurity, migration, and competition over more scarce resources.

Climate Conflict Pathways



FOOD INSECURITY AND PRICE VOLATILITY

Food insecurity – exacerbated by climate impacts on agricultural production and coupled with poverty – increases the likelihood and intensity of conflict.⁷ Changes in precipitation, higher temperatures, sea level rise, and extreme weather events will have negative effects on agricultural production, and ultimately food security.



CHANGING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER FLOWS

Population growth and climate variability place increasing pressures on rivers and lakes. Shared waters can be a source of dispute between countries and may be used as a tool during conflicts. Much of the world lives in shared river, lake, and groundwater basins. Most often, shared waters are a source of joint management, with 3,600 water-related treaties in place. As dynamics change in transboundary basins, existing agreements, and their dispute resolution mechanisms, will be tested.

How Can We Address The Climate Drivers Of Conflict?

MERCY CORPS' APPROACH

1. Build capacity of institutions to create an enabling environment for peace and sustainability



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MERCY CORPS' APPROACH

2. Support strong and diversified livelihoods that are food secure



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MERCY CORPS' APPROACH

3. Manage use of and competition over natural resources to reduce conflict



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MERCY CORPS' APPROACH

4. Use the environment to build cooperation and peace

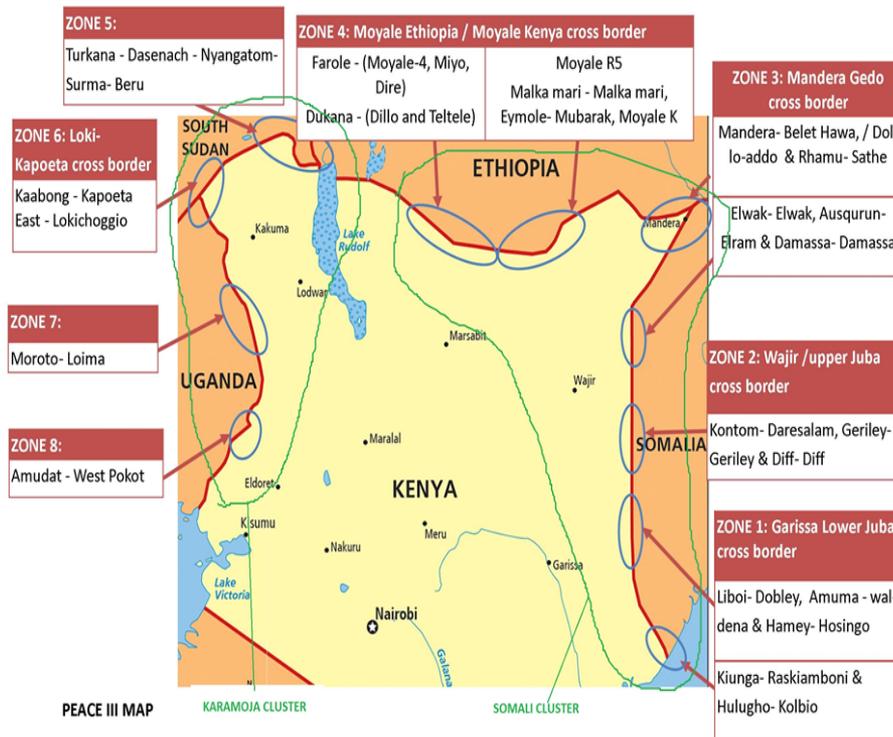


Case Study

PEACE III

The Karamoja Region

PEACE III Implementation areas



One of the poorest areas Globally

Home to 14 pastoralist ethnic groups

Environmental factors, combined with limited natural resources, fraying infrastructure, shrinking transit routes and low literacy rates = to cross border conflict and minimal economic development

Conflict has reduced communities' ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change

Climate change has the unintended consequence of creating an urgency to act in unison

Karamoja Climate Trends

TEMPERATURE TRENDS

- **Increase in average temperature of 1.3°C**, with increases in both minimum (0.9°C) and maximum (1.6°C) temperatures (1975-2009).
- **Increase in average number of days with extreme heat** of 20-28% between 1960 and 2003.

RAINFALL TRENDS

- **Decreased reliability of rainy season**, with early cessation in Kotido and Kaabong, and earlier onset/later cessation in Napak and Abim (the latter suggesting an expansion of the growing season).
- **Reduction in total annual rainfall of 15-20%**, with a shorter rainy season.
- **Increases in June, September-October rainfall.**
- **The area suffers from recurrent drought**

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PEACE III Summary

Program Aim

Strengthen cross-border conflict management in the Horn of Africa

Objectives

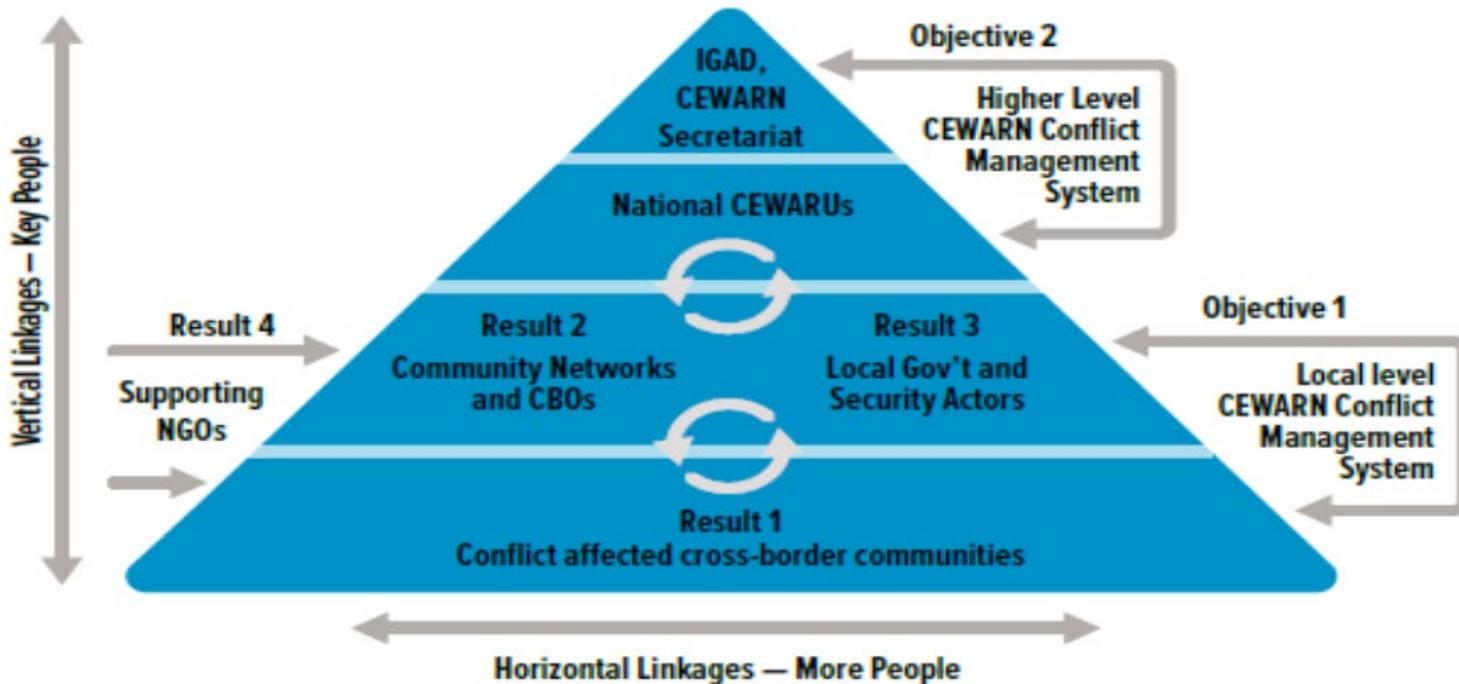
1. Strengthen local cross-border conflict management
2. Improve the responsiveness of regional and national institutions to cross-border conflict

Approach

Strengthen horizontal and vertical linkages between local, national, and regional conflict management actors.

PEACE III Model of Change

PEACE III MODEL OF CHANGE



Resolving Conflicts & helping people adapt to Climate Change



At the heart of the PEACE III approach was the recognition that the shared experiences of climate change as a unique risk demand cooperation.

Theory of change

- If we can bring communities to cooperatively manage scarce resources (Violence drops/Better resource management)
- Increased environment of peace provides a greater opportunity to employ climate adaptability strategies.

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Climate Change Perspectives

Climate change as risk

Climate change as an opportunity to cooperatively address differences.

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Focal area 1: promote inter-communal cooperation around shared interests that reduce conflict



Focal Area 2: Enhanced climate knowledge

- **Built climate knowledge in target communities** through workshops and curricula that incorporated discussion of both traditional knowledge and current climate science



Focal Area 3: Resource Sharing Agreements

- **Resource-sharing agreements between conflicting communities-** helped them cope and adapt by agreeing on access norms and recognizing common threats
- **In Lake Turkana,** cross-border agreements between Kenyans and Ethiopians are making fishing a safer and more prosperous livelihood, leading some pastoralists to become fishermen instead



Focal Area 3: Support to government structures that promote sustainable natural resource use



Recommendations

1. Promotion of intra- and inter-governmental cooperation.
2. Need to develop local climate-conflict analyses to identify targeted interventions



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