UN environment programme

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Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace

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GENDER, CLIMATE & SECURITY

Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change

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Table of Contents

Foreword

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Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade,
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The world today is reeling from the devastating social and economic impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic has unmasked how inequality shapes not only the experience of crisis, but also prospects for resilience and recovery.

In fragile and conflict-affected countries, where populations are already suffering from multiple risks posed by climate change, the pandemic is a "crisis layered on top of a crisis." Livelihoods that depend on reliable access to markets are undermined by disrupted supply chains, restrained mobility or market closures. Populations displaced by climate-related security risks living in camps or settlements – where health facilities are already inadequate – are not afforded the luxury of social distancing.

In these contexts, political and economic instability undermine capacity to cope with health crises, as well as climate and environmental shocks. This traps communities in a negative downward spiral that can fuel further conflict and insecurity.

Recent research has improved our understanding of these climate-security traps. Too little attention, however, has been paid to the role of gender norms and power dynamics in shaping responses to these reinforcing crises.

From the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to South-East Asia and Central America, the report shows how factors of marginalization combine to leave women and girls with a disproportionate economic burden; how gendered expectations can lead men and women to resort to violence when traditional livelihoods fail; and how important socio-economic shifts can result from changes to patterns of migration.

The report also makes clear that there are important opportunities for action, even as the negative impacts of climate change on security become more visible every day. Its recommendations provide a clear way forward, encouraging us to recognize the interdependence of peace and security, human rights and development.

Finland has a storied tradition of supporting global peace. The risks posed by climate change only make working to fully integrate these issues into conflict prevention and peacebuilding more urgent. But we cannot afford to do so without recognizing the unique experiences, knowledge, and capacity of women, men, girls, and boys living on the frontlines.

Finland is deeply committed to gender equality and is a strong advocate of women's roles in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. As support to climate action is more critical than ever, we look forward to continuing to support women and men in fragile contexts, as well as the global community, to build and sustain inclusive peace.

Special message

INGER ANDERSEN, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme

PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA, Executive Director, UN Women

OSCAR FERNANDEZ-TARANCO, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

ACHIM STEINER, Administrator, UN Development Programme

Climate change is now impacting every corner of the globe. In many regions, severe droughts and rising temperatures are leading to food insecurity and loss of livelihoods – threatening to reverse hard-won development gains. In fragile and conflict-affected settings, limited governance, political instability and violence leave communities particularly ill-equipped to cope with a changing climate. This in turn can compound existing tensions and exacerbate the complex emergencies we are witnessing today in the Sahel, the Middle East and Central America.

As this report outlines, climate change is already resulting in risks for the security of many millions around the globe. These risks disproportionately affect women and girls, who are key providers of food, water and energy, but have fewer resources with which to adapt to changing conditions. However, in some regions, the impacts of climate change are also leading to important socio-economic shifts that are **transforming traditional gender norms** around economic activity, decision-making and leadership. The report argues that such changes have the potential to open-up new spaces for more inclusive peace and development processes.

These gender dynamics are still relatively poorly understood at the international level – and they are generally lacking in climate-security policymaking and practice to date. This report fills a gap-in-knowledge and offers a comprehensive, accessible framework to demonstrate how **gender, climate and security are inextricably linked.** It also highlights concrete ways to take advantage of these linkages to prevent conflict and foster lasting peace.

The United Nations (UN) is undertaking a range of actions to join the dots between climate change, gender equality and peace and security. This report stems from an initiative of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) to address gender, the environment, peace and development as fundamentally interlinked issues. This *Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace* recognizes that **interventions around natural resources, the environment and climate change provide significant opportunities to empower women politically and economically, and to strengthen their contributions to peace.**

As the UN System ramps up its efforts to better support countries and communities faced with the multi-faceted threats posed by our changing climate, partnerships such as these are needed more than ever. In this crucial Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals, **our experience shows that this inclusive approach is the only way to sustain peace on the frontlines of climate change.**

In his 2019 Report on *Women, Peace and Security,* the UN Secretary-General declared an *urgent need* for better analysis of the linkages between climate change and conflict from a gender perspective. **We believe that this report answers this call.**

Acronyms and abbreviations

AOGs	Armed Opposition Groups
APE	Association for the Protection of the Environment
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters
ccGAP	Climate Change Gender Action Plan
CIESIN	Center for International Earth Science Information Network
COP	Conference of Parties
FEDURP	Federation of Urban and Rural Poor
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIWPS	Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
UN CCA	United Nations Common Country Assessment
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WPS NAP	Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

Climate change – the ultimate "threat multiplier" – is a defining threat to peace and security in the 21st century.[1] Its impacts have already increased the insecurity of vulnerable communities in several regions across the globe, exacerbating loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, competition over scarce resources, human mobility and political and economic instability. In fragile and conflict-affected settings where governance is limited or ineffective, the consequences of climate change can interact with other political, social, and economic stresses to compound existing tensions, which can undermine development gains, escalate into violence or disrupt fragile peace processes. In turn, violent conflict and political instability leave communities poorer, less resilient, and ill-equipped to cope with the effects of climate change.

The impacts of climate change and its associated security risks have important gender dimensions that shape how men and women of different backgrounds experience or contribute to insecurity. A recent study exploring the linkages between gender inequality, climate vulnerability and state fragility through country-level indicators found that these factors were positively correlated with one another: countries with relatively higher values in one issue area tended to have relatively higher scores in the other issue areas *(see Box 1)*.[2] These conclusions are supported through emerging field research and anecdotal evidence collected from practitioners across the globe. In many countries, violence against women environmental activists and "defenders" of environmental rights has become a well-documented trend *(see Box 2)*. Recognizing differentiated experiences can help minimize risks across the security spectrum and identify opportunities for building and sustaining a more inclusive peace.

However, these gender dynamics are still poorly understood at the international level and are generally lacking in climate-security policy-making and practice to date. For example, in an open debate on "Addressing the Impacts of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security" held in the UN Security Council in January 2019, only five out of 75 member states to take the floor recognized gender considerations as important in responding to climate-related security risks. Similarly, climate-related security risks have yet to be analyzed or integrated in a meaningful way in efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. As the international community accelerates policy-making, programming and investments to address climate-related security risks in fragile contexts, this is a critical gap.

Evidence from the ground suggests that the impacts of climate change are leading to significant socio-economic shifts, including transforming the traditional gender norms that determine economic activity, social relationships and leadership. In Sudan, for example, resource scarcity – the result of conflict, drought, and exclusionary decision-making processes – has forced some pastoralist communities to change their migratory patterns, often leaving women behind in settled villages to manage households while men search for grazing land. In the absence of men, women take on new responsibilities, including those traditionally carried out by men. This trend is also found in other regions of the Sahel, such as the Lake Chad basin.

If carefully managed, shifting social norms can create entry points for women's economic empowerment, as well as for their participation in decision-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. On the contrary, when these dynamics are ignored, new risks and vulnerabilities can result for the women and men on the frontlines of climate change, who are coping with the impacts of the changing distribution and availability of key natural resources such as fertile land, wildlife and water.
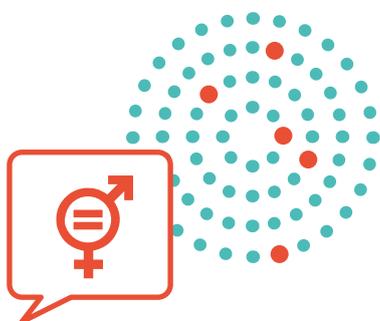
ONLY 5 OUT OF 75 MEMBER STATES

RECOGNIZED GENDER CONSIDERATIONS AS IMPORTANT IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS IN A 2019 SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

Researchers and practitioners working in fragile contexts have repeatedly stressed that it is imperative to understand and respond to the way gender norms, expectations and power structures shape how men and women experience, contribute to and respond to climate-related security risks. This was acknowledged by the UN Secretary-General in his 2019 Annual Report on Women, Peace and Security, which states: "The global threat of climate change and environmental degradation is poised to exacerbate the already increasing number of complex emergencies, which disproportionately affect women and girls. There is therefore an urgent need for better analysis and concrete, immediate actions to address the linkages between climate change and conflict from a gender perspective."[3]

This report is an initial response to this call. It offers a comprehensive framework for understanding how gender, climate and security are linked (section II), and shares – through a series of brief case studies – practical examples of empirical research, analytical approaches, and programme interventions that can contribute to responding to these risks (section III). These cases are contributed by a diverse group of researchers and practitioners who have experienced the risks and opportunities associated with gender, climate and security in their own work. The report concludes (section IV) with a set of recommendations to guide policy-making, investments, programme design, and research, with the aim of catalyzing gender-responsive action on climate and security that ultimately contributes to inclusive and sustainable peace. The report also features two types of discussion boxes: **green boxes** review additional dimensions of gender, climate and security linkages, while **blue boxes** highlight the breadth of related research from external researchers.

> THE GLOBAL THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IS POISED TO EXACERBATE THE ALREADY INCREASING NUMBER OF COMPLEX EMERGENCIES, WHICH DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT WOMEN AND GIRLS. THERE IS THEREFORE AN URGENT NEED FOR BETTER ANALYSIS AND CONCRETE, IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE LINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE.[4]

ANTONIO GUTERRES, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, 2019

UNDERSTANDING GENDER IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

Climate change generates a range of risks across the security spectrum. In already fragile contexts, the impacts of climate change can exacerbate conditions that threaten security, such as loss of livelihoods or competition over scarce resources. At the same time, conflict and insecurity undermine resilience to external shocks and make adapting to the impacts of a changing climate more challenging. Gender norms, roles, responsibilities, behaviors and power structures determine how different groups of people experience and manage these risks. The understanding and meaningful consideration of these experiences can therefore uncover new entry points for building and sustaining peace. Conversely, a gender-blind approach to addressing climate-related security risks – or a "climate-blind" approach to women, peace and security programming – can exacerbate the vulnerabilities of groups most exposed to the impacts of climate change, deepening existing inequalities and potentially aggravating environmental and security threats.

This chapter presents the key concepts explored in this report and unpacks the complex interplay of gender, climate change and security, highlighting some of the risks for peace and security. It closes by identifying opportunities and entry points for designing integrated approaches to policy-making and programme design in global peace and security and climate action agendas.

Defining the concepts

GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY:

Gender is understood as the social (rather than biological) attributes, norms, roles and attitudes considered appropriate for groups of men and women by a given society at a given point in time and learned through socialization. Gender shapes and reinforces power relations between and among these different groups.[4] This report applies an intersectional approach, which exposes the dynamics that occur as gender identity interacts or overlaps with other identity markers, such as race, socio-economic status, culture or ethnicity, creating multiple layers of marginalization and discrimination. *Intersectionality* emerged through the observation that black women experienced a double oppression from patriarchy and racism, which affected their access to justice compared to white women in the United States.[5] In the context of environmental justice, indigenous women often face multilayered risks as they are discriminated against as environmental activists, as women and as part of an ethnic minority group *(see Box 2)*. Considering men and women as homogenous groups can reinforce harmful stereotypes that can perpetuate economic, social or political inequalities, and fail to recognize the challenges of different groups faced with multiple layers of marginalization.

CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

The intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) defines climate as "average weather" or more rigorously, as the "statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities [of temperature, precipitation or wind] over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years".[6] This report refers to impacts of climate change, understood as "change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or variability of its properties and that persists for extended periods."[7] In particular, the report considers communities' capacity to adapt to – or even prevent – the impacts of climate change, including ecosystem degradation and resource scarcity due to erratic, extreme and/or changed rainfall patterns, temperature increase and extreme weather events.

SECURITY:

Framed in the context of the UN Charter, international peace and security refers to the absence of war and armed conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is linked to *state or national security,* which refers to the requirement to protect the state through the use of economic, military and political power, and the exercise of diplomacy. This report, however, is grounded in a broader understanding of (in)security, recognizing that insecurity can occur at multiple levels (household, community, state, or transnational) and across multiple dimensions, including within economic, food, health, community, environmental, personal and political spheres.[8] These forms of (in)security constitute the seven dimensions of the people-centered concept of *human security,* reinforcing the linkages between development, human rights, and peace and security.[9]

Box 1: Gender inequality, state fragility and climate vulnerability through an indicator framework: Examining triple-nexus prevalence for improved sustainable development action
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Across countries, gender inequality, state fragility* and climate vulnerability present challenges to the well-being of communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. While much research exists connecting pairs of these issues – for example, the need for gender-responsive approaches to realize climate goals – little attention has been devoted to the intersection of these three issues, nor to how this "triple nexus" could be taken into account toward more effective sustainable development decision-making and programming.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a study to explore the links among these triple nexus topics. Researchers developed a framework of 27 country level indicators – e.g. inheritance rights of widows and daughters (OECD), government effectiveness (World Bank) and low elevation coastal population (CIESIN-Columbia University) – to better understand how and where those links are prevalent in 122 countries for which USAID has a country or regional mission.**

The research has three key findings:

1. Aspects of gender inequality, state fragility and climate vulnerability affect each country included in this study to varying degrees, and scores in the three areas are positively correlated with one another. This means that countries with relatively higher values in one issue area tend to have relatively higher scores in the other issue areas.

2. The mapping analysis demonstrated that the triple nexus issues are particularly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa.

3. There are significant data gaps for gender, environmental and fragility indicators – especially for small island states. This points to the urgent need for investment in sex-disaggregated and environmental data.

The issues and underlying causes of gender inequality, state fragility and climate vulnerability are highly complex and context-specific. Country level indicators are one tool for identifying the prevalence of triple nexus issues, but risk analysis must be coupled with grounded research to provide context-specific evidence of how these issues are impacting local communities. The study reinforces the need for integrated gender-responsive policy and programmatic approaches that incorporate gender, climate and state fragility considerations. In any such actions, women and girls should be supported and positioned as actors for peace and resilience.

* In the context of the study, "fragility refers to the extent to which state-society relations fail to produce outcomes that are considered to be effective and legitimate." USAID. (2014). *Ending extreme poverty in fragile contexts [Getting to zero discussion series].*

** A detailed description of the 27 indicators used in this study, along with a full methodology and supporting literature review, can be found in IUCN's forthcoming publication: *Advancing Gender in The Environment: The triple nexus of gender inequality, state fragility, and climate vulnerability.*

Box 2: The gendered vulnerabilities of environmental defenders

As climate change fuels renewed waves of environmental activism, global trends show that taking action to protect natural resources and defend environmental rights is becoming ever more dangerous. In 2018, 77 percent of human rights defenders who were murdered (and whose deaths were recorded) were defending land, indigenous peoples' and/or environmental rights.[10] Global Witness documented 168 killings of land and environmental defenders in 2018 and an additional 201 in 2017, about ten percent of whom were women. The true scale of the problem is difficult to estimate but the number of those who have lost their lives is likely far greater than has been recorded; many more have been silenced with intimidation, arrests, violent attacks or lawsuits.[11, 12]

An analysis of women land and environmental defenders by Global Witness notes that women activists face specific and unique risks, even though the majority of recorded murders are of men.[13] In patriarchal societies, women activists are defending not only their environment, but their right to speak out. As women are often excluded from land ownership, natural resource governance and decision-making processes, this creates a context in which women's voice and legitimacy is challenged from the onset. In some contexts, women are subjected to defamation and "smear campaigns" to further delegitimize their purpose. Women environmental defenders also face threats of sexual violence and rape, particularly in contexts where women stand up to extractive industries on indigenous lands. Many women also lose their lives to their cause.[14] In 2016, the murder of famous indigenous environmental activist Berta Cáceres in Honduras sparked international attention. However, the killing of many more female activists goes largely unnoticed, and unrecorded.[15]

How are gender, climate change and security linked?

Climate change hazards...

- Droughts
- Sea level rise
- Extreme weather events
- Warmer temperatures

Insecurity at multiple levels...

- Household
- Community
- State
- Inter-state and cross border

...can expose women and men to new risks or exacerbate existing challenges.

...can undermine women and men's ability to adapt, prevent, or recover from climate-related risks.

Gender norms and power dynamics impact women and men's exposure to physical hazards and capacity to cope with risks, through differentiated:

- Access, use and control of natural resources
- Control of economic assets
- Physical mobility & migration
- Decision-making power
- Household or community expectations

For example:

- Water scarcity can expose women to increased risk of gender-based violence.
- Faltering livelihoods can contribute to men's decisions to join armed groups.
- Drought can shift pastoralist migration patterns causing families to split, increasing household burdens for women and exposing men to insecure routes.

For example:

- Denying women resources limits households' capacity to cope with economic stress caused by agricultural shocks.
- Conflict or violence can limit access to resources necessary to cope with environmental stress and exacerbate gender inequalities.
- Weak or limited governance can reinforce exclusionary decision-making on land use planning and natural resource management.

Together, climate change and insecurity create compound risks for women and men, which demand solutions that integrate environmental, peacebuilding and gender equality goals.

Climate-related security risks

➲ CLIMATE CHANGE AMPLIFIES THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY

The impacts of climate change compound economic, political, social and environmental pressures, which can lead to the loss of livelihoods, increased competition over resources or displacement and migration,[16] as well as volatile food prices and provisions, among others.[17] These risks can undermine relationships, social cohesion and peace and security, as well as reverse gains made to development. States with functional institutions, diversified economies and trusting relationships with their citizens are better prepared to absorb these shocks and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. In fragile or conflict-affected contexts, however, these shocks can overwhelm existing systems and resources, eroding trust and social cohesion and potentially resulting in, contributing to, or intensifying conflict.[18]

In some parts of the Sahel region, for example, the traditional livelihoods of both farmers and herders have been impacted by the rapid reduction in the availability of fertile land and reliable water sources due to multiple factors, including longer periods of drought, unpredictable and variable rainfall, inadequate land use and agricultural policies, and violent conflict in neighboring areas. Low levels of formal education and limited economic diversity have made seeking alternative forms of income challenging, especially for the most marginalized groups. Together, these stress factors have spurred competition over resources in the area, undermined trust, created new patterns of migration, and provoked an increase in localized violent conflict between different livelihood groups.[19] This trend is particularly marked in cross-border areas, where the vulnerability of populations is exacerbated by limited access and support from central state services.

➲ AT THE SAME TIME, INSECURITY MAKES ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE MORE DIFFICULT

Conflict and other forms of crisis weaken communities' capacities to adapt to changes in resource availability which, in turn, can reinforce key drivers of conflict.[20] For example, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin is among the most severe in the world, as the region suffers from violence linked to armed groups such as Boko Haram. The Lake Chad region is also deeply impacted by climate change. However, in the context of ongoing conflict, communities are less able to adapt to changing conditions in terms of the availability and distribution of key natural resources and increased frequency of natural hazards. Restrictions on movement limit opportunities for income diversification; farmers and pastoralists cannot easily move to seek alternative livelihoods during times of drought, exposing them to other vulnerabilities, such as recruitment by armed groups.[21]

Gender and climate-related security risks

➲ CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS IMPACT MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS IN DIFFERENT WAYS, RESULTING IN DISTINCT VULNERABILITIES FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS

The power dynamics and societal expectations that define roles, responsibilities, behaviors and differential access to, use and ownership of resources – such as land, livestock or other financial assets – for people with different identities help shape how people experience and manage risk in the context of climate change and insecurity.

This can be observed in the context of climate and conflict-related migration *(see Box 3)*. For example, expectations to be the primary breadwinners in areas where livelihoods are dependent on increasingly scarce access to land and water may incentivize men to migrate away from their families in search of alternative livelihoods. The out-migration of men may create new risks and vulnerabilities for both the men who leave and the women, children and other family members who stay behind. Even if migration ultimately enables them to secure access to alternative resources or new livelihoods, men who migrate away may face physical insecurity, such as passing through areas with higher levels of violence, or entering into new, unsafe working conditions.

At the same time, women who remain behind in rural areas often face a double economic burden: income generation and caring for the household. To compensate for lost income, women may take on new roles, such as working in sectors that have been traditionally dominated by men while maintaining increasingly strenuous household responsibilities, such as collecting water or fuelwood, especially in degraded environments where access to such resources is ever more distant. In such situations, moreover, traditional and expanding responsibilities can expose women to new security risks, including sexual and gender-based violence, or create additional barriers to education. Increasing burdens often occur within the confines of discriminatory legal frameworks that exclude or marginalize women in land tenure or property rights.

⊙ **RESPONDING TO CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS MAY ALSO OFFER NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVING WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.**
When managed carefully, the changes in gender norms, behaviors and expectations that can result from situations of crisis can provide entry points to bring traditionally marginalized groups into leadership and decision-making positions. For example, as women take on greater levels of responsibility for livelihood production, windows of opportunity can emerge for engaging them in more leadership roles, such as the governance of natural resources, or the resolution of natural resource-related disputes. In North Kordofan, Sudan, women in some communities have become actively involved in facilitating dialogue over natural resource disputes, a role previously entirely reserved to men.[22]

This is crucial for women's empowerment, as access to decision-making underpins women's ability to fully participate in and benefit from economic activity. At the same time, incorporating women's unique knowledge of natural resources – as providers of food, water, and energy – into climate change adaptation can strengthen the design and implementation of adaptation plans. For example, a study from South Asia shows that often women have long adopted strategies to protect their livelihoods from being destroyed by flooding, such as storing their seed in high places.[23] Moreover, capitalizing on women's social networks can open up alternative communication channels, and result in opportunities for new or broader dialogue. This can, in turn, highlight women's capacities as decision-makers and influencers and increase their access to other political and peacebuilding processes.

Box 3: The gender dimensions of climate-related migration and displacement

The impacts of the current climate crisis – including rapid onset disasters like flooding or hurricanes, or slow onset disasters such as drought or sea level rise – are expected to "extensively change the patterns of human settlement" as people move away from unfavorable environmental conditions that threaten traditional livelihoods or personal security.[24] In 2018, 28 million people were newly internally displaced due to conflict or disaster, including 16.1 million people displaced due to storms, foods, droughts, wildfires, landslides and extreme temperatures.[25] In rural areas, changes in rainfall or temperatures that threaten water supply, subsistence agriculture, or other sources of income can be a driver for rural-urban migration.[26]

Migration linked to changing environmental conditions can be forced or voluntary, though the two are often difficult to discern.[27] In some cases, migration can be a key adaptation strategy, allowing people to cope with harsh environmental conditions. For example, temporary or seasonal migration may enable people in severely affected areas to cope with challenging conditions, such as intense seasonal rainfalls or heat waves, open alternative sources of livelihoods, and reduce reliance on limited natural resources.[28]

In conflict-affected contexts, climate change impacts can exacerbate existing risks and challenges for people fleeing to less insecure places across borders or within their own countries.[29] At the same time, conflict may make climate-related migration more difficult, increasing the vulnerability of those left behind. Already displaced populations – including refugees, stateless people, and the internally displaced who often reside in

climate change "hotspots" – may be exposed to secondary displacement or may be prevented from returning home safely due to climate change impacts in their home areas.[30] This can exacerbate other drivers of conflict, compound pre-existing vulnerabilities and contribute to competition over depleted natural resources.[31]

There are important gender dimensions to consider both in cases of migration linked to slow-onset events and in displacement due to sudden-onset events. They range from differentiated protection issues, access to services, health impacts, the weight of existing gender norms that can expose women to additional risks, access to land tenure, and labor protection.[32] In addition, gender roles, relations, norms and expectations significantly affect women's and men's decisions to migrate, and their experiences of migration in the context of climate change. These may include, for example, expectations of men to be the primary breadwinner or of women to care for household members.[33]

Key policy instruments have been developed and adopted to address human mobility in the context of climate change. These include the Kampala Declaration of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced persons in Africa; the Global Protection Cluster; the Platform for Disaster for Disaster Displacement; the Global Compact on Migration; and the Global Compact on Refugees, among others. It is critical that gender considerations are fully integrated into these frameworks and all initiatives to implement them to ensure they address the specific needs and experiences of women, men, boys and girls, and that they do not exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities or create new ones.

Entry points for integrated action

Integrated action to respond to the gender dimensions of climate-security risks is key to minimizing threats to peace and security, including deepening socio-economic inequality and tensions over natural resources access, use and control. It is also critical for maximizing opportunities for building and sustaining peace through more inclusive political and social processes and the design of effective climate change adaptation strategies.

Entry points for integrated action exist across several global agendas and frameworks addressing gender equality, peace and security, climate action and sustainable development. Effective approaches include more systematically applying a climate lens in women, peace and security programming *(see Box 4)*, and designing gender-responsive climate adaptation and peacebuilding programmes in conflict-affected contexts. A summary of the relevant global commitments and entry points for action described in this section can be found in *Annex 1.*

Women, Peace and Security Agenda

In the year 2000, landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 recognized the importance of women's participation at all levels in the "prevention, management and resolution of conflict".[34] However, two decades later, there are still significant gaps in securing full and substantial contributions from women in all aspects of peacebuilding.

As climate change impacts on gender roles, power relations and livelihood patterns, new entry points are emerging for engaging women on the frontlines of these changes in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. For example, in communities where resource scarcity and violent conflict drive men to migrate in search of alternative livelihoods, women often take on roles that challenge traditional gender norms, such as mediating local conflicts or working in traditionally male-dominated economic sectors. If capitalized on effectively, these shifts have the potential to overcome longstanding barriers to women's empowerment in peacebuilding processes, and help to widen peace networks, strengthen dialogue and secure inclusive political, social and economic structures that center on gender equality and environmental sustainability in conflict-affected contexts.

NATIONAL
ACTION PLANS

ONLY 17 OUT OF 80 STATES

MENTION CLIMATE CHANGE IN THEIR NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

WOMEN
PEACE
AND
SECURITY

...AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Such interventions, however, are still under-explored in women, peace and security programming and policy-making. A recent analysis of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 found that only 17 NAPs (out of 80) included direct references to climate change, including six that acknowledged climate-related risks in discussions about their country's respective peace and security contexts and needs. However, only three NAPs – all from donor countries – included specific goals and actions to address climate-related security risks *(see Box 4)*.[35] While awareness of the need to better understand the climate-related security risks from a gender perspective is growing (as evidenced by the UN Secretary-General's 2019 Annual Report on Women, Peace and Security), more attention needs to be paid to programming opportunities, especially as investments in climate-related peacebuilding programming ramp up.

Box 4: How National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security integrate climate change

ELIZABETH SEYMOUR SMITH

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda National Action Plans (NAPs) have the potential to be an important tool for promoting women's participation in addressing climate change and related security risks. Research by Elizabeth Seymour Smith (forthcoming) of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) assesses how climate change is framed in WPS NAPs and explores how goals and actions addressing climate change and related security risks are associated with the four "pillars" of the WPS agenda — prevention, participation, protection and relief and recovery.[36]

The analysis finds that 17 of 80 states with NAPs publicly available in English include direct mentions of climate change in their plans, framed in various ways. For example, several NAPs integrate climate change language through reference to UNSCR Resolution 2242 – the eighth resolution in the WPS agenda – the first to include direct mention of climate change. Some plans acknowledge climate change as a factor influencing instability or human insecurity for women in different country contexts. A number of these NAPs include actions addressing challenges relating to the environment, notably natural disasters. In most of the NAPs reviewed however, direct references to climate change occur in narrative and background information sections only.

Different iterations of NAPs in three donor countries – Finland, Ireland and the United States – stand out as exceptions, in that they feature specific activities and goals that address climate change and related security risks framed as part of the prevention pillar. For example, Finland's most recent NAP (2018-2021) includes exploring opportunities and challenges associated with climate change as a key entry point for strengthening women's economic and political empowerment.[37] Ireland's NAP (2019-2024) advocates for increased investment in addressing the gender and security impacts associated with climate change as part of its prevention efforts, such as through supporting research in vulnerable states to strengthen engagement with the Security Council.[38] The United States' second NAP (2016-2018) promotes improved gender integration in work to increase resilience to conflict and insecurity, including in contexts affected by climate change.[39] NAPs in all three countries also advocate for women's participation in climate change action and negotiations as part of relief and recovery efforts (in the case of The United States) or conflict prevention initiatives (Ireland and Finland).

Sustaining Peace Agenda

The UN Sustaining Peace Agenda emerged from the 2016 General Assembly and Security Council "twin" resolutions – A/Res/70/262 and S/Res/2282 – expanding the scope of peacebuilding to emphasize the importance of conflict prevention at all phases of a conflict cycle. This approach to peacebuilding provides a unique opportunity to address the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks.

First, the Sustaining Peace Agenda reaffirms UNSCR 1325 and recognizes the meaningful inclusion of women as critical to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Specifically, the twin resolutions underscore "the importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building."[40] To advance women's full participation in peacebuilding, sustaining peace initiatives should promote "the gender dimensions of peacebuilding, including through the delivery of gender-sensitive and targeted programming, through the strengthening of women's meaningful participation in peace-building, supporting women's organizations and through monitoring, tracking and reporting achievement."[41]

Second, the Sustaining Peace Agenda emphasizes "the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes."[42] The impacts of climate change are increasingly recognized as a potential factor of conflict, in combination with other socio-economic or political factors. The joint United Nations and World Bank study on conflict prevention, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict,* reaffirmed climate change as an important conflict driver, noting that while climate change alone does not cause conflict, "risks associated with climate change can combine with and exacerbate risks of violence through factors such as food insecurity, economic shocks and migration."[43] The UN Secretary-General has also put environmental degradation and climate change at the heart of the UN's prevention agenda.[44]

While the Sustaining Peace Agenda recognizes both climate action and the inclusion of women as core elements of conflict prevention, the linkages between the two goals are not yet explicitly defined. Designing policies and programmes that meaningfully engage women in assessing and addressing the gender-differentiated risks and opportunities of climate change impacts in fragile contexts can contribute to better addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting more inclusive, peaceful societies.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC, aimed at "preventing 'dangerous' human interference with the climate system," was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The implementation of the UNFCCC and other subsequent commitments agreed upon by the parties, including the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris agreement (2015), is overseen by the UNFCCC secretariat.[45] The framework convention "puts the onus on developed countries to lead the way" in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to climate change mitigation, the framework convention recognizes the importance of climate adaptation for peace and development, especially in "developing" countries, which have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions but are hit hardest by climate change impacts, and have the fewest resources available to respond to climate change shocks.[46] In fragile contexts, effective climate change adaptation programmes to help "countries anticipate the adverse effects of climate change and take action to prevent, minimize and respond to its potential impacts" have been recognized as important approaches to strengthening the resilience of states.[47]

Building effective adaptation strategies to climate change demands the knowledge and experience of those experiencing its impacts most directly. As the primary providers of food, water and energy in rural areas, women are often living on the frontlines of climate change and have distinct knowledge and experience to contribute to building effective adaptation strategies. However, despite growing awareness and recognition that women are important actors and influencers in climate change policy, they remain largely underrepresented in decision-making and planning processes, especially at local levels, which can further exacerbate existing patterns of marginalization.

Some important steps have been taken to recognize the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and promote the inclusion of women. For instance, in 2014, Parties to the Convention agreed to the Lima Work Programme on Gender, a programme designed to enhance the implementation of the existing gender provisions in climate change agreements, identify gaps, and monitor implementation.[48] In 2017, Parties adopted the first Gender Action Plan (GAP) under the Lima Work Programme to promote the inclusion of women in climate change policy-making and design gender responsive approaches to climate action.[49] At COP 25, Parties adopted a new five year GAP, building on the previous plan.[50] Gender-responsive action has also been recognized as an important element of disaster risk reduction, including in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

However, gender-responsive climate action often remains disconnected from peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives. Recognizing the linkages between conflict prevention and climate adaptation can help create policies and interventions that mutually reinforce one another. On the contrary, failing to consider the security implications of climate change and related policies can lead to negative outcomes for peace, climate change adaptation and gender equality.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

THREE INTER-RELATED GOALS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

13 CLIMATE ACTION

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders in 2015, is a comprehensive "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity." The agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that integrate economic, social, and environmental dimensions to eradicate poverty, strengthen universal peace, and secure a resilient future. Addressing the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks provides an opportunity to achieve targets across three key inter-related SDGs (*see the table below*) and several related goals.

Key SDGs and targets achieved through integrated action on the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks

SDG	KEY TARGETS
GOAL 5: **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**	**5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life **5.A** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
GOAL 13: **Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**	**13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries **13.B** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
GOAL 16: **Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**	**16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels **16.B** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

The adoption of this ambitious global agenda led to a far-reaching reform of the way in which the UN development system works at country level[51], centered on greater integration and collective delivery. Among other measures, the reform has introduced the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (formerly the UNDAF or United Nations Development Assistance Framework) as the main strategic instrument to respond to national needs and priorities. In order to promote integration and collaboration, the elaboration of the UNSDCF is underpinned by United Nations Common Country Assessments (UN CCAs), carried out as an inclusive multi-stakeholder process to assess gaps, opportunities, and strategic direction at the country level. Gender mainstreaming and sustainable development are core guiding principles for UN CCAs.

The 2030 Agenda – and the reform of the UN development system designed to support countries achieve the SDGs – has enshrined integrated action and partnerships as core conditions for tackling complex multi-dimensional challenges and achieving sustainable peace and development. Assessing and addressing the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks – starting with conducting integrated analysis to inform UN CCAs – is an important step in delivering on key inter-related objectives.

EVIDENCE OF GENDER, CLIMATE AND SECURITY LINKAGES IN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

This chapter seeks to illustrate the intersectional gender dimensions of climate-related security risks and opportunities through examples from field-based research and programming experience. These examples have been contributed by a diverse range of researchers and practitioners working in contexts affected by the impacts of climate change and other compounding crises. The following case studies are brief summaries of empirical research or documented peace and development interventions that demonstrate the breadth of emerging evidence at the intersection of gender, climate and security. The full-length versions of the studies and programming documents are available on this report's website at: www.gender-nr-peace.org/.* All of the cases in this report have been subject to peer review by peace and security, gender equality and climate change specialists from different sectors *(see Annex 2).*

*Citations and references for each of the following contributions are available in the full-length papers they are drawn from, available at www.gender-nr-peace.org/

1. The gender dimensions of conflict and resilience in northern Nigeria

CHITRA NAGARAJAN
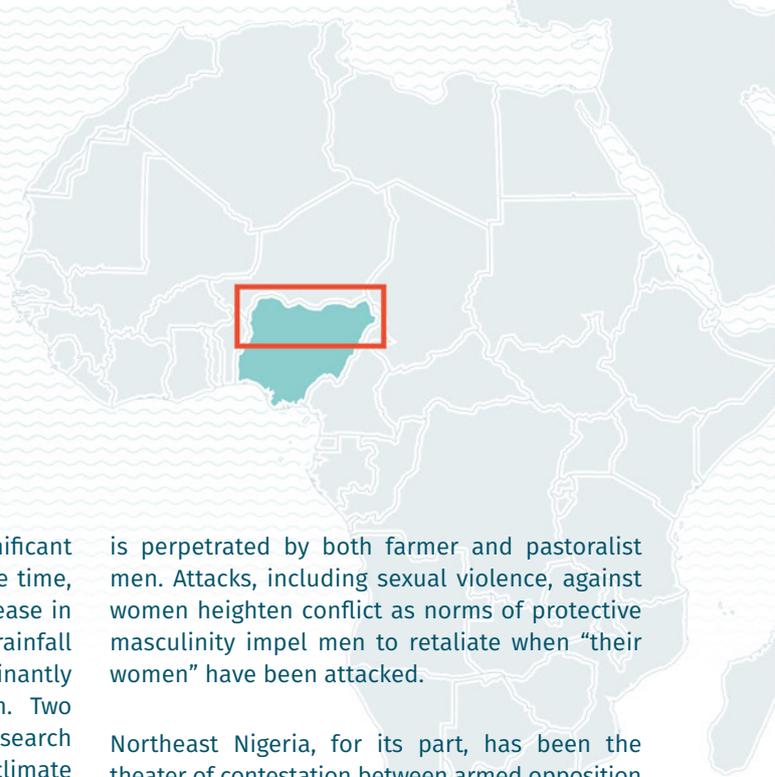
Northern Nigeria has experienced significant conflict in the past ten years. At the same time, changing climate – manifested in an increase in temperature and the unpredictability of rainfall – has significantly affected the predominantly agrarian populations across the region. Two recent case studies based on empirical research examining the interaction of gender, climate change and security in the Middle Belt region and in northeastern Nigeria have shown that not only are gender roles impacted by this combination of dynamics, but that norms of masculinity and femininity have also driven violence.

Inter-communal violence in the Middle Belt region is generally considered to be caused by farmer-pastoralist conflict. Factors including population growth, allocation of grazing land to farmers, and increasing identity-based politics have altered previously largely positive interactions against a backdrop of changing climate. The unpredictability of rainfall has affected farming, pasture and water sources and made livelihoods more precarious. Reduced ability to absorb shocks, such as the destruction of crops or the death of cattle, has increased the stakes in confrontations. This violence has, in turn, contributed to a change in migration modalities, whereby young men are increasingly moving alone with their cattle, leaving families behind for their safety.

Masculinities, the desire to protect family wealth tied up in cattle, the intense stress experienced by these young men and the lack of family support, intensify conflict dynamics. The violence itself also has gendered dimensions, with the crisis point often being conflict between young male pastoralists and women in farming communities. Conflict sites include farmlands, which women farmers report pastoralists are more likely to encroach on if a woman is present, as well as water points, when women go to fetch water at the same time cattle is watered. Rape is perpetrated by both farmer and pastoralist men. Attacks, including sexual violence, against women heighten conflict as norms of protective masculinity impel men to retaliate when "their women" have been attacked.

MASCULINITIES, THE DESIRE TO PROTECT FAMILY WEALTH TIED UP IN CATTLE, THE INTENSE STRESS EXPERIENCED BY THESE YOUNG MEN AND THE LACK OF FAMILY SUPPORT INTENSIFY CONFLICT DYNAMICS.

Northeast Nigeria, for its part, has been the theater of contestation between armed opposition groups (AOGs, commonly known as Boko Haram) and the state for the past decade. Land that is both secure and fertile is insufficient for all populations to pursue livelihoods, resulting in areas of higher population density and reduced resilience to variations in climate. Communities are also experiencing increasing tensions and degrading social cohesion, relationships and networks.

Young men, recruited into and forced to join AOGs and community militias, are often stigmatized and feared as perpetrators of violence. Conversely women, often seen as innocent victims, can choose to join AOGs to escape the patriarchal norms of mainstream society, particularly given the lack of alternative livelihood options. At the same time, with many men detained, killed, fighting or having left them behind in search of work elsewhere, women are finding ways to provide for their families in sharp contrast to pre-existing gender norms of breadwinner masculinity. However, this increased resilience is far from uniform, as particular groups of women, such as women with disabilities, face intersecting forms of marginalization, lesser access to capital and reduced social networks due to stigma.

The research shows how gender norms play significant roles in driving violence and communities' resilience to climate change. The combination of climate change and insecurity has both changed gender norms and had differential impacts based on age, gender, disability, ethnic and religious background and other identity markers. Much of this analysis of political, economic and social dynamics tends to be missing from government policy and programming interventions, with corresponding reduced effectiveness.

2. Everyday violence and its impact on insecurity and resilience in Chad

VIRGINIE LE MASSON, COLETTE BENOUDJI & SANDRA SOTELO REYES
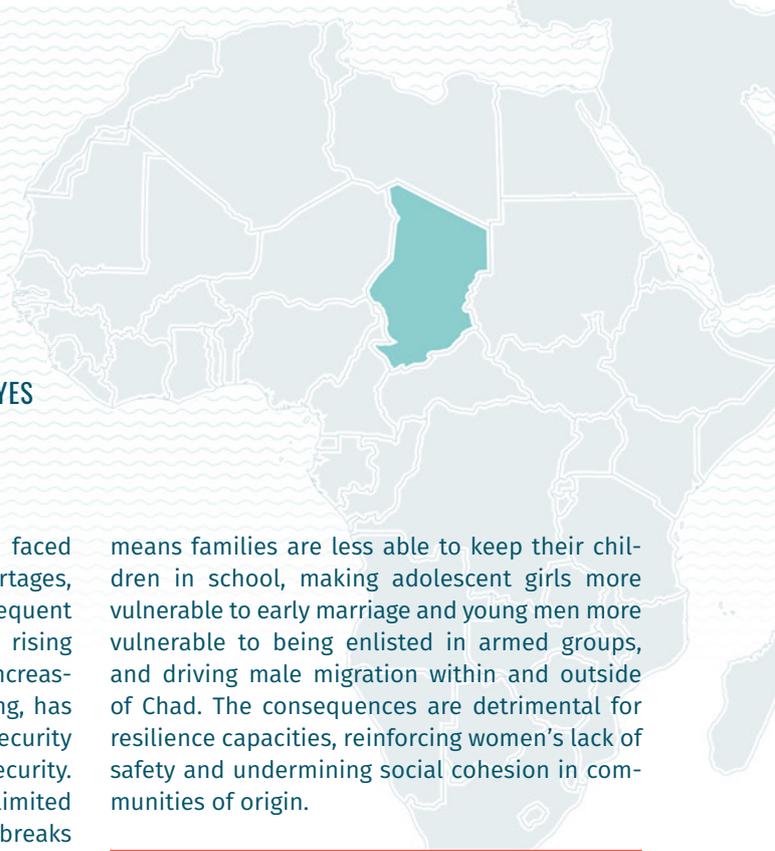
For decades, Chadian populations have faced recurring droughts and severe food shortages, politico-military instability and subsequent population displacements, as well as rising food prices. Climate change, including increasing droughts, extreme rainfall and flooding, has amplified cascading threats to people's security by exacerbating livelihood and food insecurity. This has increased competition over limited land and water resources and led to outbreaks of violence, as well as the risk of social tensions and recruitment into armed groups, particularly in the Lake Chad region. This context has aggravated the risk of violence against women and adolescent girls, particularly in areas where basic services are lacking or non-existent, where social development policies are seldom implemented and where customary laws clash with the rights of children and women.

Empirical evidence collected as part of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme, in collaboration with Oxfam Intermón and Concern Worldwide, shows that at least a third of women and adolescent girls in Chad face severe violations of their rights and violence on a daily basis. Experiences of child, early and forced marriage, denial of access and control over resources, eviction of one's home and sexual violence within their household, are all examples of violence against women and girls that impact negatively on the ability of survivors to secure their livelihoods, their health and their rights.

"Everyday violence" against women and girls creates a negative cycle, undermining households' and communities' capacities to adapt to environmental changes which – in turn – reinforces gender-based violence and discriminatory practices. For example, the practice of denying women's access to and control over resources creates economic stress for the entire family. Economic insecurity means families are less able to keep their children in school, making adolescent girls more vulnerable to early marriage and young men more vulnerable to being enlisted in armed groups, and driving male migration within and outside of Chad. The consequences are detrimental for resilience capacities, reinforcing women's lack of safety and undermining social cohesion in communities of origin.

"EVERYDAY VIOLENCE" AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS CREATES A NEGATIVE CYCLE, UNDERMINING HOUSEHOLDS' AND COMMUNITIES' CAPACITIES TO ADAPT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH – IN TURN – REINFORCES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES.

Women and girls are often the target recipients of humanitarian aid and development projects that aim to increase their economic resources, but the factors that sustain their exclusion, tolerate discriminatory norms and prevent their involvement in decision-making are rarely or only partially addressed. Ultimately, programmes intending to improve people's resilience to climate risks and disasters must address the causes and the impacts of violence against women and girls, particularly if they aim at building peace and security. Interventions that support adolescents' access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, maternal healthcare, education and information about their rights constitute priority entry points in Chad.

3. Climate change, conflict, and shifting gender dynamics in pastoralist communities: Perspectives from North Kordofan, Sudan

UNEP / UN WOMEN / UNDP

Pastoral livestock production has long been an important livelihood in Africa's drylands, allowing nomadic communities to adapt to challenging climatic conditions characterized by long periods of drought and highly variable rainfall. In North Kordofan state, Sudan, however, established migratory routes and pastoralist grazing land have come under threat in recent years as a result of environmental and climactic changes, the expansion of mechanized agriculture, and conflict and insecurity.

Research documenting these changes in and around Al Rahad – a locality situated along North Kordofan's southeastern border that acts as a major crossroads for several pastoralist groups – has found that pastoralist communities are shifting their traditional migratory patterns in different ways to adapt to new conditions. Among the three prevalent ethnic groups – the Baggara, Shanabla, and Kababish – two distinct migratory patterns have emerged: some groups are no longer migrating at all or are moving much smaller distances, essentially settling in villages around Al Rahad. Other groups are continuing to migrate but have adjusted their traditional routes to the new environmental and security challenges, by avoiding migration to deteriorating grazing lands in the north or sending only men to graze large animals in South Kordofan, an area with higher levels of insecurity. Although the research recorded a diversity of experiences, it highlighted a common trend: more pastoralist women and girls are remaining in villages throughout the year, while men and boys continue to be – at least seasonally – mobile. This new practice has an impact on the social composition of local villages, resulting in increasingly "feminized" communities.

MORE PASTORALIST WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE REMAINING IN VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WHILE MEN AND BOYS CONTINUE TO BE – AT LEAST SEASONALLY – MOBILE. THIS NEW PRACTICE HAS AN IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF LOCAL VILLAGES, RESULTING IN INCREASINGLY "FEMINIZED" COMMUNITIES.

Shifts in livelihood practices and the social composition of villages have important implications for gender norms, as well as for social, political, and economic dynamics. The research found that these changes are associated with new risks and vulnerabilities for both pastoral men and pastoral women. For example, the region is experiencing increasing levels of conflict between pastoralist groups and farming communities over access to land or other natural resources. Men and boys who continue to migrate move through highly insecure areas and are at risk of experiencing violence, as well as fueling new tensions with local farming communities to access grazing land. Women who remain behind in Al Rahad's villages are faced with heavy burdens to fulfil their traditional responsibilities and as well to meet new demands, such as generating new forms of income for the family in the absence of men.

At the same time, the research underscores opportunities for empowering women and promoting positive peace as livelihood and settlement patterns shift. Study participants noted that close proximity to health centres, highways and a more settled lifestyle had made receiving health care – especially reproductive healthcare – more accessible to pastoralist women. A more settled lifestyle was also said to allow for more frequent interactions – and relationship-building – between women from pastoral and farming communities, such as at markets or health centres, opening up new opportunities to strengthen social cohesion between groups. Some pastoral women also noted that exposure to settled communities may be having a positive impact on marriage practices, citing that women were increasingly consulted before marriage.

While providing a rare glimpse into the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist women on the frontlines of climate change, the study's findings reinforce that pastoralist experiences are dynamic and complex, and are often informed by multiple identities, including gender, ethnicity, economic or social status, migratory patterns and culture, among others.
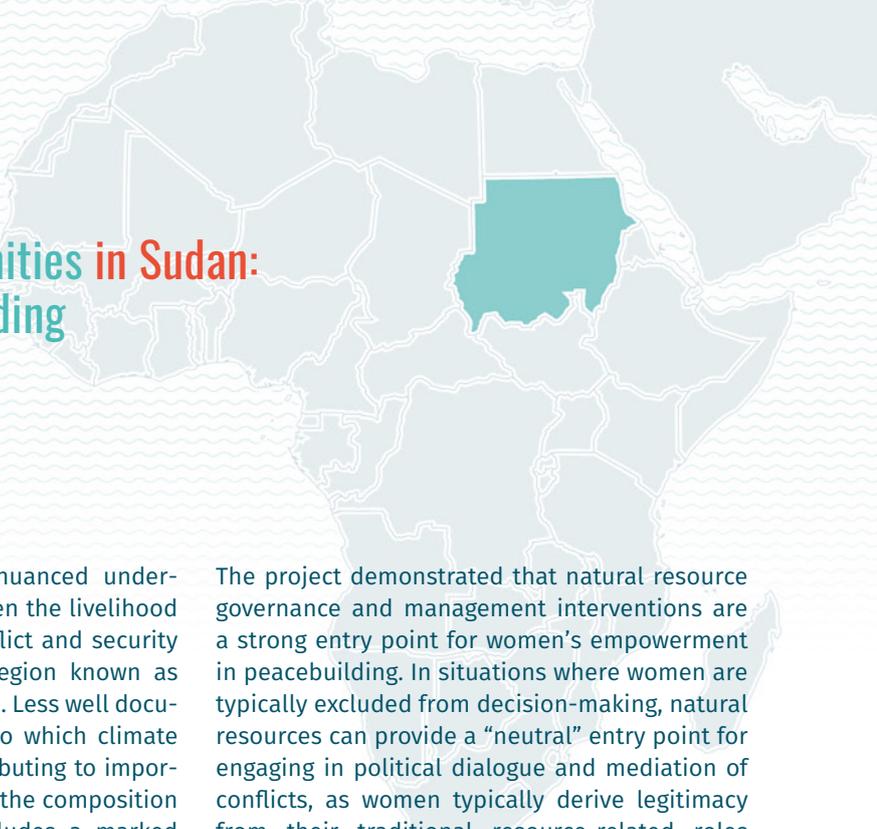
4. The "feminization" of communities in Sudan: New opportunities for peacebuilding

UNEP / UN WOMEN / UNDP

An increasingly complex and nuanced understanding of the interplay between the livelihood impacts of climate change, conflict and security is emerging for the Sahel, a region known as "ground zero" for climate change. Less well documented to date is the degree to which climate change and insecurity are contributing to important social shifts, particularly in the composition of rural communities. This includes a marked feminization of the resident population of some local communities that are on the frontlines of these dynamics. While increasing the economic burden on women from all social groups, and exposing them to further risks of violence, these shifts also provide opportunities to strengthen women's leadership for conflict prevention and resolution, and to empower them to increase community resilience.

A pilot project undertaken by UNEP, UN Women and UNDP provided important insights into these dynamics in the locality of Al Rahad in the Sudanese state of North Kordofan – a community, like many in the Sahel, beset by climate-related environmental degradation and increasing conflicts over natural resources, as well as spill-over insecurity linked to the protracted conflict on the border with South Sudan. The project undertook targeted interventions to support women from all groups to exercise their agency in local planning and decision-making processes governing the use of natural resources and to strengthen their role in the prevention and resolution of natural resource-based conflicts. Remarkably, it succeeded not only in increasing women's participation in natural resource governance, conflict prevention and resolution, but also in shifting perceptions of women's leadership, capacities and contributions in building a sustainable peace.

The project demonstrated that natural resource governance and management interventions are a strong entry point for women's empowerment in peacebuilding. In situations where women are typically excluded from decision-making, natural resources can provide a "neutral" entry point for engaging in political dialogue and mediation of conflicts, as women typically derive legitimacy from their traditional resource-related roles that is not conferred to them on other issues. Sustainable natural resource management also represents a key opportunity for women's economic empowerment in a context where sustainable alternative livelihoods are needed due to the impacts of a changing climate. Specifically targeting women in the development of climate adaptive livelihoods – and supporting them to organize economically – ensures not only income gains for women, but the resilience and stability of entire communities. Finally, natural resource interventions can provide important platforms for cooperation for women from opposing groups that contribute to strengthening social cohesion.

IN SITUATIONS WHERE WOMEN ARE TYPICALLY EXCLUDED FROM DECISION-MAKING, NATURAL RESOURCES CAN PROVIDE A "NEUTRAL" ENTRY POINT FOR ENGAGING IN POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION OF CONFLICTS, AS WOMEN TYPICALLY DERIVE LEGITIMACY FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL RESOURCE-RELATED ROLES THAT IS NOT CONFERRED TO THEM ON OTHER ISSUES.

5. Gender, climate change and security risks in Egypt: Opportunities for synergistic action

MARISA O. ENSOR

Egypt's rapid population growth and extreme water scarcity make the country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country's long Mediterranean coastline is already experiencing the consequences of sea level rise, including saltwater intrusion, soil salinization and deterioration of crop quality. In a country where 95 percent of freshwater resources are generated outside its territory, any change to water availability can have major consequences for food and energy security, as well as employment, housing, sanitation, education and health care, heightening risks of social tension and political instability.

This situation constitutes a particularly serious threat for women, who are marginalized in economic, social and political spheres. One third of adult women in Egypt are estimated to be illiterate, as compared to 15 percent of adult men, severely limiting their opportunities for employment. Agriculture employs 45 per cent of all women in the labor force in Egypt, but women only own 5.2 percent of the land. Women also face high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, especially in the most impoverished urban neighborhoods. Unequal inheritance rights and customary practices that discriminate against women contribute to limited asset ownership, more unstable earnings and higher food and water insecurity.

Policy responses to the climate crisis in Egypt have so far concerned environmentalists and gender equality advocates alike. As the rural population grows, land is being fragmented into increasingly smaller plots, a pattern that hinders the organization and efficient use of farm resources and exacerbates socio-economic strains. Given their marginalized situation, women are particularly affected by these compounding factors. This is starkly illustrated in the case of the Salam Canal – Egypt's largest land reclamation and irrigation project – which involved the construction of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, land preparation for farming and the development of settler villages, which often resulted in violent clashes with existing populations. The settlers were selected through a formalized application process, but while a quota of at least 20 percent female settlers was mandated, only a handful of female applicants were identified. Many women later reported ceding control over land to male family members, in conformity with gendered roles and expectations.

RECOGNIZING THE CO-BENEFITS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND SUPPORTING SYNERGISTIC ACTION TO REALIZE THEM, CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT AVENUE FOR SUSTAINING PEACE IN EGYPT.

Recognizing the co-benefits of women's empowerment and climate resilience, and supporting synergistic action to realize them, constitutes an important avenue for sustaining peace in Egypt. In Al-Zarayeb, for example, a neighborhood of informal settlements on the outskirts of Cairo's Mokattam Hills, community-based organizations like the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE) have taken action to simultaneously empower women and respond to the environmental crisis. At the time of writing, the APE is working with 250 women members who count on each other for protection and receive assistance securing an environmentally-friendly source of income, education – mostly basic literacy classes – and daycare support for their children.

6. The role of women in addressing urban climate-fragility risks through local governance in Freetown, Sierra Leone

MOLLY KELLOGG

FREETOWN ⊙

In Freetown, Sierra Leone – a city located between mountains and the Atlantic coast – rapid urbanization, combined with poor city planning and an unforgiving topography, has resulted in the expansion of informal settlements into flood plains and up steep hillsides. At the same time, unabated deforestation and solid waste cover have significantly reduced the absorption of heavier, harsher rains and rising sea levels, resulting in an intensification of flooding and landslides. Residents of informal settlements, who live in the most exposed areas and possess the fewest resources to adapt or respond to new conditions, are extremely vulnerable to these disasters. Women are even further disadvantaged, as discriminatory norms and power structures disproportionately limit their access to social, economic and political structures. In 2019, women had fewer than three years of schooling on average and held only 12 percent of parliamentary seats, according to the Women, Peace and Security Index.

Yet findings reveal that despite the gender gap, women in Freetown are carving paths to inclusion in local governance across two key modes of engagement, through which they are building resilience to climate-related security risks in the city's most vulnerable corners. First, women are seeking formal representation in city government. In 2018, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr became the first woman elected as mayor in 40 years – serving as one of only three women local council heads nationally (out of 22). Climate change and environment have been at the center of her Transform Freetown policy agenda. Her data-driven and participatory approach to governance – setting and measuring clear environmental targets and holding regular consultations with city residents, including in informal settlements – have helped her to gain legitimacy with city residents.

Second, women are engaged in community-based organizations and civil society networks, especially in informal settlements. The Federation for Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), a women-led network of more than 3,000 people, is organized through small savings and loans groups. Saving and loans groups serve two core functions: they provide households with financial security and they mobilize community action. Once involved in a savings group, network members take on other tasks such as carrying out data collection in their communities – which helps identify risk exposure – or training community members on flood and disaster management. FEDURP has become an important partner in the implementation of the Transform Freetown Agenda, demonstrating the power for inclusive governance.

Gender-responsive development projects in informal settlements are making important contributions to supporting the empowerment of women in local decision-making processes and bridging the gap between informal and formal structures of governance. The "Pull Slum Pan Pipul" project for example (in English, "take the slum from the people"), aims to improve the well-being of residents of informal settlements. Testimonies from beneficiaries suggest that project interventions that have improved the livelihoods of women in slums in turn have enabled women to engage in decision-making processes in their homes and communities, including related to disaster risk management. This project and others have also supported sustained dialogue between community-based leaders and city government officials, setting the foundation for inclusive local governance structures.

EVEN IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES WHERE WOMEN CONTINUE TO FACE HIGHLY DISCRIMINATORY NORMS, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED INITIATIVES CAN PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT ENTRY POINT TO ENGAGING WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

Systematic evidence of the impacts of the above-mentioned initiatives for increasing resilience to climate-related security risks has not yet been measured. However, findings demonstrate that that even in post-conflict societies where women continue to face highly discriminatory norms, climate change and environmental issues can provide an important entry point for engaging women in local governance at different levels.

7. From alarm bells to background noise? The role of gender in risk mapping, analysis and response in the Asia Pacific region

MARIA TANYAG

The Asia Pacific is a highly diverse region politically, economically, socio-culturally and environmentally. This diversity amplifies the challenges of addressing climate-related risks in a historically "crisis-prone" region, especially as the Asia Pacific lags in meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets in key areas of climate action, natural resource management and environmental protection.

Drawing on evidence from key-informant interviews and focus group discussions in three countries in the region – the Philippines, Cambodia and Vanuatu – recent research finds that "gender-lite" approaches within climate change and disaster programming weaken the transformative potential of integrating gender perspectives across risk mapping, analysis and response. In the distinct security context of the Asia-Pacific, climate change is one of several interrelated "everyday" insecurities, along with pre-existing gender inequalities and compounded risks from poverty, protracted conflicts, land dispossession and local or community-level resource disputes.

All three countries have promulgated frameworks that incorporate gender equality goals within national climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas. Yet, the transformative potential of gender analysis and mainstreaming commitments is largely undermined by "box-ticking" approaches. Dominant national and global climate risk analyses remain partial – or worse, flawed – because they are ultimately unable to comprehensively respond to where, when, how and what multiple risks overlap.

"GENDER-LITE" APPROACHES WITHIN CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER PROGRAMMING WEAKEN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF INTEGRATING GENDER PERSPECTIVES ACROSS RISK MAPPING, ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE.

The findings make a strong case for urgently moving beyond "gender-lite" to gender-responsive implementation across climate risk mapping and response. A key step is to begin re-assessing existing national frameworks and plans based on everyday and traditional knowledge as legitimate forms of climate risk expertise of individuals and communities at the crossroads of different crises, particularly disasters and conflicts. Processes should – by design – promote women's active participation and leadership at all levels of planning, beginning with developing women's expertise at basic community or village governance structures.
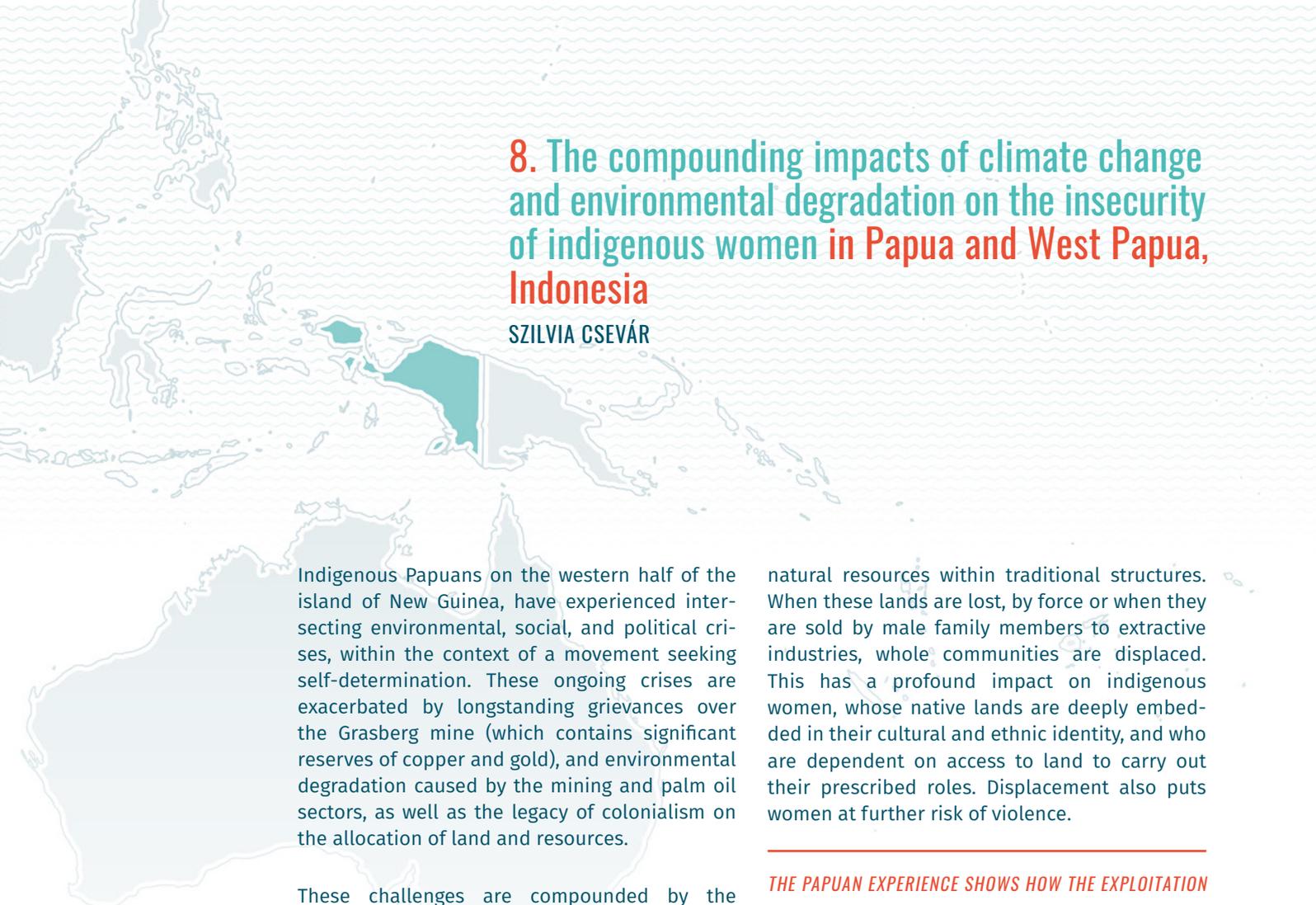
8. The compounding impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on the insecurity of indigenous women in Papua and West Papua, Indonesia

SZILVIA CSEVÁR

Indigenous Papuans on the western half of the island of New Guinea, have experienced intersecting environmental, social, and political crises, within the context of a movement seeking self-determination. These ongoing crises are exacerbated by longstanding grievances over the Grasberg mine (which contains significant reserves of copper and gold), and environmental degradation caused by the mining and palm oil sectors, as well as the legacy of colonialism on the allocation of land and resources.

These challenges are compounded by the impacts of changing weather patterns, which have put additional stress on the region's rapidly depleting natural resource base, contributing to the loss of livelihoods and food security challenges. This has created a new dependency on imported foods, rapidly replacing traditional subsistence living. Additionally, unusually heavy rainfalls frequently cause floods and landslides. Such disasters have killed many, left entire communities displaced and severely damaged food crops.

Indigenous Papuan women, whose traditional roles include providing food for their families through small plot agriculture and forest management, have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of environmental degradation, exacerbated by a changing climate. This has compounded other vulnerabilities linked to insecurity, including rampant sexual and gender-based violence and marginalization, especially among displaced populations.

While Papuan women play a key role in caring for the community's food gardens and forests, they possess no rights of ownership to the land and natural resources within traditional structures. When these lands are lost, by force or when they are sold by male family members to extractive industries, whole communities are displaced. This has a profound impact on indigenous women, whose native lands are deeply embedded in their cultural and ethnic identity, and who are dependent on access to land to carry out their prescribed roles. Displacement also puts women at further risk of violence.

THE PAPUAN EXPERIENCE SHOWS HOW THE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES CAN DRIVE VIOLENCE, AND HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN COMPOUND INSECURITY, LEADING TO SEVERE LIVELIHOOD IMPACTS ON INDIGENOUS WOMEN THAT HAVE TRICKLE-DOWN IMPACTS ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

Despite the emerging recognition of the substantial link between climate change and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework, the intersections of climate change, environmental degradation, resource extraction, conflict and violence against women remain largely absent from the Security Council's agenda. The Papuan experience shows how the exploitation of natural resources can drive violence, and how climate change can compound insecurity, leading to severe livelihood impacts on indigenous women that have trickle-down impacts on families and communities. Twenty years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, it is critical that the gender dimensions of environmental degradation, resource extraction, indigenous land rights and climate change, be fully integrated into the WPS agenda.

9. Reflections on gender, climate, and security linkages in urban Pakistan

AMIERA SAWAS, NAUSHEEN ANWAR, AND GULNAZ ANJUM

Due to its geography, Pakistan is exceptionally exposed to climate-related hazards, and has experienced an increasing number of climate-related disasters over the last decades, including severe floods and droughts which have had lasting impacts on infrastructure, livelihoods and resilience, particularly in urban areas. The most vulnerable, who rely on natural resources and informal work, are trapped in a cycle of economic, social and political marginalization that is exacerbated with every disaster.

Pakistan's deeply embedded patriarchal norms – at all levels of society and institutions – influence how men and women perceive and experience climate change impacts within the current security landscape. Findings from research across two provinces – Sindh and Punjab – point to some important trends in urban areas. Pakistan is urbanizing at a rapid rate, but decent livelihood opportunities and public services are not following suit, with the result that life in the city is often precarious on many fronts. The impacts of climate change are exacerbating this precarity and contributing to domestic violence and the formation of non-state armed groups.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ARE INCREASINGLY PREVENTING MEN AND WOMEN FROM LIVING UP TO THEIR PRESCRIBED GENDER ROLES; THIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO DOMESTIC OR COMMUNAL VIOLENCE.

The research finds that first, men and women are increasingly unable to live up to their prescribed gender roles which, in some cases, is resulting in domestic or communal violence. For example, damages incurred from extreme flooding have been found to keep men – who are typically daily wage or contract workers – at home, resulting in loss of income and preventing them from fulfilling their prescribed roles as breadwinners. Both women and men explained that the anxieties and frustrations associated with this lack of fulfilment of their socialized responsibilities could lead to domestic violence.

Second, women illustrated that they faced increased structural oppression as a result of certain aspects of climate change, such as extreme water shortages. Many women are expected to continue to manage the household without problems, even with droughts affecting household water security in some of Pakistan's biggest cities. Women narrated experiences of tending to sick children with no resources and of disappointing their husbands or other men in the household. Women explained that they experienced physical forms of domestic violence for either failing to manage the existing water in the house, or for breaking norms around women's mobility by venturing out to secure new sources.

Finally, water and energy shortages that have been exacerbated with climate change have been associated in some cases with the mobilization of men into non-state armed groups. For example, in Karachi, a network of informal water providers, branded a "water mafia", has emerged. This group is reportedly using water scarcity to gain power by intensifying water shortages through illegal extraction, and then selling the water to communities via private tanker. The related frustrations have led to community violence and fighting between the "water mafia" and the local population.

10. Understanding the gender dimensions of climate change and security in western Nepal
UNEP

After decades of violent conflict, Nepal's civil war between the then Maoist party and the government of Nepal ended with the signing of a peace agreement in 2006. However, in the years leading up to the signing of a new constitution in 2015 and subsequent elections for a federal system of government in 2017, socio-political tensions in the Karnali River Basin, in western Nepal, often resulted in protests and, at times, in violent confrontations. Tensions around the inclusion of minority groups in governance structures and unequal access to natural resources manifested in growing mistrust among different ethnic and indigenous groups and between local communities and the government, the undercurrents of which are still felt today.

The impacts of climate change in western Nepal – including higher temperatures, rainfall variability, and the melting of glaciers – threaten to further undermine this fragile socio-economic fabric. A baseline study conducted to inform the design of a UNEP project addressing climate-related security risks in the region found that these changing dynamics have important inter-sectional gender dimensions, which may pose particular risks – as well as opportunities – for women's empowerment.

First, constraints on access to natural resources shaped by changing governance models and perceived insecurity are exacerbated by climate change impacts. For instance, much of the forest land – which covers 61 percent of Kailali District and 39 percent of Bardia District – remains under jurisdiction of state government and continues to be characterized by a heavy presence of security personnel, limiting community access to and use of forest resources. At the same time, unpredictable and uneven rainfall creates new challenges, such as increased risks of flooding and less productive agricultural outputs. In consultations for the baseline study, women noted feeling particularly vulnerable to these impacts, as higher levels of food insecurity created fertile ground for domestic violence and greater burdens of care, as is often seen after natural disasters.

As a result of constrained access to and reliability of natural resources, community members reported that out-migration of men was on the increase. Seasonal migration of men to India has long been a primary source of livelihood for people in this region. However, as agriculture becomes less reliable due to unpredictable and changing rainfall patterns, men are extending their stays in India. Community members also reported new migration destinations, including both cities within Nepal and Gulf countries, for men and women seeking alternative income sources. Women reported shouldering increased burdens and experiencing higher levels of insecurity as the sole providers for their families in ever more challenging environments. However, migration was also noted to be an effective adaptation strategy, providing pathways for individuals – mainly men – to support their families with alternative income sources.

WOMEN REPORTED SHOULDERING INCREASED BURDENS AND EXPERIENCING HIGHER LEVELS OF INSECURITY AS THE SOLE PROVIDERS FOR THEIR FAMILIES IN EVER MORE CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS. HOWEVER, MIGRATION WAS ALSO NOTED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGY, PROVIDING PATHWAYS FOR INDIVIDUALS – MAINLY MEN – TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES WITH ALTERNATIVE INCOME SOURCES.

Despite the gender-related risks associated with climate change and security in Nepal, women have remained largely sidelined from decision-making processes. Barriers to inclusion are especially high for female members of the Tharu ethnic minority, who face multiple levels of marginalization as women and members of a traditionally marginalized caste. Interventions seeking to address these risks should enhance the leadership and technical capacities of women at local levels and work to strengthen the evidence base on climate change, governance, and gender through local level knowledge generation, ensuring that the voices of the most marginalized are elevated in consultations and dialogue with affected communities.

11. Gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate-related food insecurity in Ecuador, Colombia and El Salvador
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The impacts of climate change, conflict and security challenges, and gender inequality converge in a number of contexts in Latin America, creating compounded risks for food security, especially for the most vulnerable groups. Climate variability and change present particular challenges for poor smallholder farmers who rely on rain-fed agriculture. At the same time, a range of security concerns, such as internal conflict in Colombia or gang violence in El Salvador and other Northern Triangle countries, limit people's livelihood options. Long-standing and deeply rooted gender inequalities and the high rates of violence against women and girls across the region further constrain communities' adaptive capacities, especially for poor rural and indigenous women experiencing this "triple threat". These factors all have detrimental impacts for food and nutrition security as communities are no longer able to rely on traditional approaches to farming and income generation.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in the region for decades to provide food assistance to vulnerable populations and governments. Recent food security interventions that support resilience and adaptive capacities show that such interventions can contribute to addressing interlinked climate change impacts, gender inequality and security risks. In Ecuador and Colombia, WFP and partners have been using gender-responsive approaches to build adaptive capacity to climate change impacts through community-based and ecosystems-based activities that help strengthen food security within indigenous communities. In El Salvador, WFP resilience-building interventions, which include the creation and rehabilitation of natural and physical assets, community-based capacity-building and the creation of income opportunities for youth, have been strengthening communities' capacities to address climate-related shocks and manage climate risks.

RECENT FOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS THAT SUPPORT BUILDING PEOPLE'S RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES SHOW THAT SUCH APPROACHES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ADDRESSING THE INTERLINKED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, GENDER INEQUALITY AND INSECURITY.

Recent research conducted jointly by WFP and SIPRI in El Salvador has pointed to ways food security interventions can also contribute to building social cohesion, a key condition to preventing community violence. For example, study informants described how a women's group leveraged institutional structures established by a food security project to develop a community fund that assists people in need, such as covering funeral costs, hospital transportation costs, or food aid to families who have lost their primary income provider.

Initial findings from these three countries highlight that the impacts of climate variability and change can aggravate livelihood challenges and gender inequalities, further fueling food insecurity and undermining community cohesion that can hold violence in check. WFP's work offers insights into the integration of gender and social cohesion considerations into food security interventions in climate-change affected contexts, while highlighting the need for integrated approaches to gender, climate change and security.

Box 5: Gender and climate-related migration in the Dry Corridor of Central America
CHRISTIAN AID

Across the Dry Corridor of Central America, climate change is contributing to increased drought, extreme temperatures, floods and changes to rainfall patterns. In 2017, Christian Aid commissioned a study to explore the relationship between migration, gender and climate change in the region. The results are based on interviews and focus group discussions with 251 people (184 women and 67 men) in communities in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. The three main findings are as follows:

1. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT RAIN OR DROUGHT CAN INFLUENCE DECISIONS TO MIGRATE, BUT SO DOES VIOLENCE

Study participants reported that periods of rain and drought were much less predictable than they were a decade ago. Based on the interviews, migration was mainly temporary and took place during the first planting season. In the past, there were two harvests each year, but in response to climate change, some Dry Corridor populations no longer risked beginning the first planting cycle and migrated in search of other sources of employment. However, many participants reported that violence played a more significant role than the impacts of climate change in decisions related to migration.

2. THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION DIFFER ACROSS COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

In Honduras and Nicaragua, respondents perceived an increase among women who decided to migrate, including temporary migration during the coffee-picking season. In Guatemala and El Salvador, respondents noted that migration continued to be primarily male-dominated.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION HAVE INCREASED WOMEN'S BURDENS

Women reported having to travel greater distances to secure water and to spend more time caring for ill people of all ages as a result of an increase in disease (including respiratory diseases, skin diseases and diseases such as the zika virus, chikungunya and dengue, caused by higher numbers of mosquitoes). New migration patterns were perceived as adding to women's burdens. "When a woman migrates," they explained, "her care-related duties fall on other women in the community. When a man migrates, women take on high workloads and new responsibilities associated with the head of the household." Moreover, despite their increased responsibilities, women said they faced longstanding discriminatory practices related to land tenure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

Although isolated efforts are visible in some areas of policy-making, concerted and coordinated initiatives need to be undertaken to integrate policy frameworks on sustaining peace, climate change, and women, peace and security. Opportunities exist at the multilateral, regional and national levels, including through the following measures:

At the multilateral level:

⊙ Ensure that gender considerations are appropriately reflected in debates and deliberations on emerging policy on climate-related security risks – not only to strengthen awareness and understanding of particular vulnerabilities, but also to highlight opportunities for leadership and inclusion of women and marginalized groups in decision-making processes. In doing so, elevate voices from the ground to share evidence and provide context and nuance to deliberations.

⊙ Conversely, ensure that environmental and climate-related security risks are appropriately integrated into the policy framework for women, peace and security (WPS), including by adding indicators on climate change and other environmental factors into the indicator framework for the monitoring of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.

⊙ Ensure that an intersectional gender analysis, including disaggregated data and indicators, forms part of any standardized methodologies developed for climate-related security risk analyses that inform global, regional and national policy-making.

⊙ Include gender expertise in capacity-building and technical assistance provided to national counterparts or the UN system to support countries to assess and address climate-related security risks at the regional, national and local levels.

⊙ Support multilateral institutions, national governments, civil society organizations, and women's organizations to integrate and address climate-related security risks elaborated in the newly adopted five-year Gender Action Plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender to support the implementation of the gender provisions in the UNFCCC and related agreements.

⊙ Adopt and support policies that hold governments accountable for the full protection of environmental defenders, including protection from physical and verbal attacks or threats in compliance with States' human rights obligations.[52]

At the national level:

⊙ Support national governments and civil society networks to integrate climate and environmental risks into National Action Plans (NAPs) and other national-level policy and planning processes for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, and support peacebuilding networks – including networks of women mediators at regional and national levels – to address climate-related security risks.

⊙ Promote and support the meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in national-level climate change policy and planning processes in conflict-affected countries, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), national climate change action plans, land tenure policies and REDD+ and other climate change mitigation strategies; and support the advocacy efforts of women's organizations and networks to address climate-related security risks.

⊙ Ensure that women and marginalized groups are fully included in the design and implementation process of National Action Plans (NAPs) and that plans specifically address the unique experiences, risks, and opportunities for different groups of women and men.

⊙ Support national governments, women's organizations, and civil society organizations to integrate and address climate-related security risks in national climate change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) and gender provisions outlined in NDCs.

⊙ Ensure that gender equality concerns are fully integrated into instruments developed to address the complexity of issues underpinning migration and displacement in the context of climate change and conflict, such as including the Kampala Declaration of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced persons in Africa, the Global Protection Cluster, the Platform for Disaster for Disaster Displacement, the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, among others, so that they do not exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities or create new ones.

Financing

According to the latest data analyzed by the OECD, bilateral aid for dedicated programmes targeting gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal (main) objective remains low at 4 percent of total aid, while 62 percent of all bilateral aid remains "gender blind."[53] Dedicated financing for women's empowerment remains particularly low in sectors related to natural resources, including agriculture and rural development, energy access, and water and sanitation. While financing for projects promoting gender equality and women's empowerment has increased substantially in peacebuilding funding – the UN Peacebuilding Fund allocated 40 percent of its funding to such projects in 2018 – opportunities for strengthening women's roles in peacebuilding through natural resource-related interventions are still under-explored. Recommendations to financing partners are therefore as follows:

- ➲ Donors wishing to strengthen women's roles in all aspects of peacebuilding should invest in programming that uses sustainable natural resource and climate-related interventions as an entry point. As this report has demonstrated, such interventions provide significant opportunities to strengthen women's roles in dialogue and dispute resolution, in governance and in the economy. Sustainable natural resource programming also offers opportunities to mitigate sexual and gender-based violence in conflict.

- ➲ Multilateral funds dedicated to peace and security, such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund, should ensure that new projects addressing climate-related security risks capitalize on the peacebuilding potential of women and other marginalized groups on the frontlines of climate change. This entails not only ensuring that targeted funding – such as the Gender & Youth Promotion Initiative – is dedicated to supporting women's leadership in addressing climate-related security risks, but also that new investments in regions affected by such risks specifically target women as agents of peace.

- ➲ Donors should consider dedicating more funding to supporting the resilience of women and marginalized populations to climate-related security risks through programming in sustainable natural resource management, including sustainable agricultural practices, forestry, water resource management and renewable energy sources.

- ➲ Multilateral funds dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) should ensure that women and other marginalized groups are increasingly targeted in programming seeking to address the climate change impacts that constitute potential factors of conflict.

- ➲ More investment in empirical research is needed to deepen understanding of the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks across a greater selection of geographical and cultural contexts where climate change and its impacts on peace and security are manifested in different ways.

62% OF ALL BILATERAL AID REMAINS "GENDER BLIND"

ONLY 4% OF DEVELOPMENT AID TARGETS GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AS ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Integrated programme design
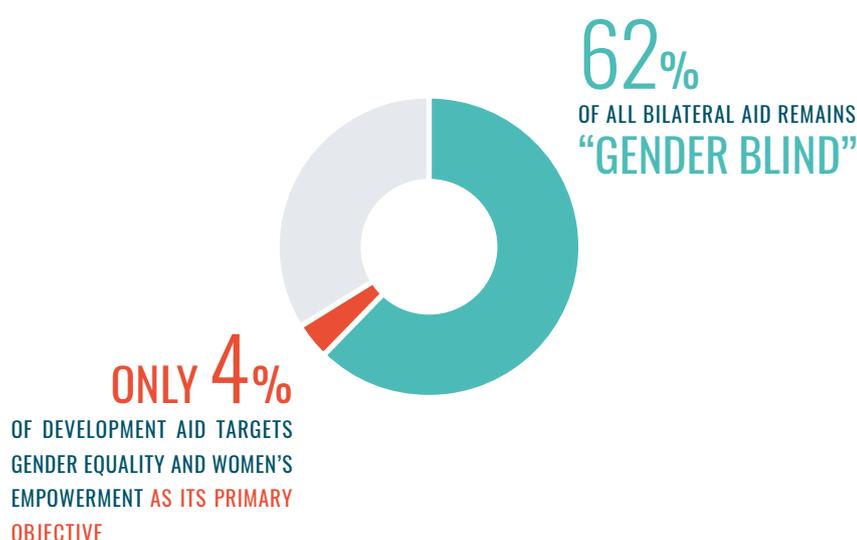
Innovative programming seeking to address interlinked gender, natural resource, climate and peacebuilding issues is emerging that provides compelling early evidence of the value of integrated approaches for addressing these complex multi-dimensional challenges. Good practices and lessons from these early efforts need to be documented and disseminated, and new initiatives should be undertaken to promote gender-responsive programming on climate-related security risks at scale, including through the following measures:

At the global level:

→ Distill and disseminate good practices and lessons learned from programmatic interventions that address the gender-differentiated impacts of climate-related security risks and engage women and other marginalized groups to improve the design and delivery of integrated peacebuilding programming.

→ Build capacity within the UN system and among other international actors to address the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks as part of peacebuilding programming in conflict-affected countries and regions, including on cross-border dynamics.

→ Develop and test a multi-dimensional indicator framework to monitor and evaluate progress at the intersection of the three dimensions of gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change adaptation/environmental sustainability, and peace and security at regional and country levels. This should be done as an inter-disciplinary exercise bringing together experts and institutional stakeholders from relevant sectors.

At the national level:

→ Ensure that an intersectional gender analysis forms part of any analysis of climate-related security risks underpinning programmatic interventions, in order to understand the differentiated needs, vulnerabilities and priorities of men, women, boys and girls across contexts.

→ Consider opportunities for action in cross-border areas, where vulnerabilities from climate-related security risks are particularly high due to limited access and support from central state services.

→ Ensure that programmes supporting the implementation of national climate adaptation and mitigation strategies harness local knowledge and capacity of primary users of natural resources, including women, indigenous groups and other marginalized communities.

At the local level:

Possible interventions include:

→ Build the capacity of women for dialogue and the resolution of natural resource-related disputes affecting their communities;

→ Enhance women's contributions to post-conflict economic recovery by investing in climate-resilient sustainable livelihoods and building their capacity to access environmental data for improved livelihood outcomes;

→ Protect women from conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence through sustainable resource management, including through investments in energy conservation technologies, such as clean cookstoves, and access to clean water;

→ Promote the rights of women to land tenure through legal advocacy and capacity-building of communities to recognize and support women's equal access, use and control of land and resources.

Research

The body of research featured in this report constitutes an initial attempt at a compilation of existing knowledge and understanding on the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks. While it provides important insights into how these dynamics are playing out in various contexts, a more systematic approach is needed to investigate this nexus, including through the following:

- A multi-disciplinary research network or consortium dedicated to furthering empirical research on gender, climate and security linkages should be established (as a new network or as part of existing expert working groups or consortia) to strengthen knowledge and evidence on these issues through quantitative and qualitative methods.

- Research should be carried out in full partnership with researchers from the global south and should consult local stakeholders on the formulation of research questions. Such research should also seek to amplify local voices and stories.

- A common data repository should be created to collect and provide access to relevant existing data on the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks.

- Research consortia should partner with policymakers as well as peace and development practitioners to ensure uptake of research findings, such as through supporting the development of impactful policy frameworks and informing peace and development programmatic priorities.

Specific knowledge gaps that merit further research identified in the writing of this report include (but are not limited to):

- Gender dynamics associated with climate and conflict-related migration and displacement – what motivates women and men to migrate (or not)? How do motivations, risks and opportunities differ between and among gender groups?

- Women's contributions to peacebuilding following extreme weather events or disasters – what role do women play in different peacebuilding contexts that experience climate-related disasters? What enabling factors exist to promote women's leadership?

- Women's roles in informal governance structures in conflict and climate change affected contexts – how are women contributing to governance when formal structures are not functioning?

- Linkages between women's access to land tenure, conflict mitigation and climate adaptation/ mitigation – does promoting women's access to land tenure contribute to mitigating local land conflict? How is this linked to building local climate resilience?

- How can big data, frontier technologies and mobiles phones be used to reduce women's vulnerability to climate-related security risks as well as empower them in peacebuilding?

While more research is needed across the global landscape, several geographical gaps have emerged as contexts with particularly limited data:

- The Middle East – interactions between climate change, conflict and gender;

- Central America – interactions between climate change, crime, gender-based violence, and migration;

- South Asia and the Caribbean – linkages between extreme weather events, community-based violence, and gender;

- Central Asia – gender-specific risks and opportunities associated with water scarcity; and

- North America and Europe – climate-related risks for vulnerable groups of women and men, including migrants, undocumented populations, refugees, and those living in informal settlements.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Key UN policy frameworks and global agendas for integrated action on gender, climate and security

POLICY FRAMEWORK & KEY RESOLUTIONS	KEY GOALS & PRIORITIES	OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATED ACTION
WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY AGENDA UNSCR 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), and 2467 (2019)	➲ Strengthen women's meaningful participation, protection and rights in all aspects of peacebuilding ➲ Recognize and respond to the different ways in which women, men, girls and boys contribute to and experience conflict	➲ Assess climate-related risks and opportunities for women's participation and leadership across all pillars of peacebuilding ➲ Promote women's leadership in natural resource-based conflict prevention and resolution ➲ Increase opportunities for women's economic recovery through climate-resilient sustainable natural resource management in post-conflict countries ➲ Integrate environmental and climate considerations into NAPs for the implementation of UNSCR 1325
SUSTAINING PEACE AGENDA General Assembly & Security Council "twin" resolutions – A/Res/70/262 and S/Res/2282 (2016)	➲ Prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation & recurrence of conflict ➲ Emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes ➲ Strengthen inclusivity in sustaining peace initiatives ➲ Underscore the importance of women's leadership & participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding	➲ Ensure *integrated* gender, conflict & climate/ environmental analysis is systematically conducted to inform peacebuilding programme priorities ➲ Support gender-responsive climate action, i.e. programmes that have co-benefits for women's empowerment and climate adaptation, as a conflict prevention strategy in fragile contexts ➲ Ensure that the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks are addressed in further policy development, including the outcomes of the 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture.
CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA (UNFCCC) UNFCCC (1992), Kyoto Protocol (1997), Paris agreement (2015), Lima Work Programme on Gender (2014)	➲ Prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system ➲ Mitigate climate change through the reduction of harmful activities ➲ Strengthen States' capacity to adapt to change conditions recognizing the importance of adaptation for peace and development, especially in "developing" countries	➲ Integrate conflict analysis into gender-responsive climate action and policy-making ➲ Harness local knowledge and capacity of primary natural resource users in design of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies ➲ Support women's economic empowerment in conflict-affected contexts through training and resources for climate-resilient sustainable livelihoods ➲ Promote women's leadership in climate action in fragile and conflict-affected contexts
2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – A/RES/70/1 (2015), the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, A/RES/72/279 (2018)	➲ Eradicate poverty ➲ Shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path ➲ Strengthen universal peace ➲ Leave no one behind, recognizing the specific risks faced by different target populations ➲ Achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals	➲ Ensure *integrated* gender, conflict and climate/ environmental analysis is systematically conducted as part of common country analysis processes (CCAs) ➲ Design integrated projects and programmes addressing gender, climate and security linkages, based on partnerships and complementarity of mandate among UN agencies, funds and programmes

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