



UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH SUDAN



INFORMATION BRIEF

Addressing Climate-Related Security Risks in South Sudan

SUPPORTED BY
UNDP, UNMISS, UNRCO

CONTEXT

Climate change is of immense existential importance in this century. The systemic disruptions of climate change threaten all areas of human security, peacebuilding, humanitarian operations, and development. This is taking a heavy toll on vulnerable populations and amplifying the fragility of many developing countries especially those under conflicts. Widely recognized as a threat multiplier, there are different pathways and entry points through which climate change could trigger or exacerbate conflicts. These include a) disruption of **livelihoods**, especially those highly dependent on natural resources; b) inducing migration and mobility such as displacement of communities by flooding and drought and altering traditional routes and ranges of nomadic and pastoral groups in search for fresh pasture and water; c) Armed group tactics such as luring youths for recruitment into their ranks; and d) elite exploitation under opportunistic tendencies for self-interests.

South Sudan is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change, and with a long history of conflict. Over 95 percent of the population depend on climate-sensitive livelihood systems whose reliability and productive thresholds are changing under climate shocks. This is severely stretching the resilience and coping capacity of communities and putting them on edge of tipping into conflicts especially where there are existing tensions. For instance, there is the prevalence of inter-communal conflicts linked to climate-induced migration and mobility, and reduction in the carrying capacity of natural resource systems (e.g., green pasture and water) to mutually support different livelihood activities, thereby resulting in the perennial farmer-herder conflicts observed in South Sudan.

The signing of the '**Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan**' (R-ARCSS) in 2018, and the reconstitution of the government of national unity, signals increased space in rallying support, and capitalizing on the opportunities in advancing national reconciliation and peacebuilding, and promoting peaceful coexistence among communities at the subnational level.

Leveraging on the strategic orientation of peacekeeping operations in providing context-specific solutions, there is an opportunity to address the key drivers of conflicts in a holistic way, especially climate induced drivers. Similar opportunities also exist under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, particularly under the triple Nexus Approach in consolidating peacebuilding using humanitarian and development activities, and in turn, enabling a steady transitioning to sustainable development through capacity building and improving social infrastructure for strengthening the realization of the R-ARCSS.

Addressing converging risks is therefore crucial in providing an integrated framework in anchoring peacebuilding, enhancing inclusion, gender equality, women and youth empowerment, and access to economic opportunities for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDG) that leaves no one behind.

GOAL

- ▶ The goal is to strengthen the capacity of the UN peace operations, and UNCT in addressing the inter-linkages between climate change, prevention, and sustaining peace using coordinated and integrated approaches, with the application of appropriate analytical tools, data sources, scenarios and early warning systems that specifically address climate-related security risks across scales and contexts.

Strategic Interventions

- ▶ Enhance contextual analyses with the integration of climate and conflict sensitivity analyses in identifying patterns across scale (spatial and temporal), and contexts in order to work with the interconnectedness and complex nature of conflicts. This is critical in improving climate-related security risk forecast and understanding their dynamic pattern of occurrence.
- ▶ Support the development of a robust multi-dimensional early warning and preparedness system that integrates climate and security alertness for South Sudan.

- ▶ Strengthen partnerships and networks for collaborative actions on climate and security, data sharing, consolidating existing data repositories, leveraging on existing Working Groups, taskforces, thematic activities, and ongoing peace building processes, programmes and projects.
- ▶ Support the development of capacity for the integration and application of climate and security in UNMISS mechanism and procedures, the UNCT Humanitarian, Peace and Development nexus approach, and the activities of State and Non-State Actors (i.e., NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, Communities).
- ▶ Support the government of South Sudan with the strategic orientation and formulation of climate-related security perspectives in national plans, policies, and investments, and in the implementation of the NDC, National Adaptation Plan, and transition to low carbon development.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

It is important to underscore that climate security is not necessarily about the local climate but changes in the **local impacts of climate change**, and how that can trigger cascading and disruptive effects in other systems, especially fragile systems, that can potentially degenerate into security risks particularly if there are underlying tension and disagreements. Therefore, the approach is **to build on existing** frameworks, mechanisms, procedures and programmes of the UN (UNMISS & UNCT), **to customize** climate and security risk into peacebuilding processes, and interventions for the delivering of humanitarian and development support in South Sudan. **Undertake** contextual analysis and **characterization** of the baselines and thresholds of climate-related security risk profiles, and tipping points of different regions and hotspots, in **streamlining** and **providing targeted interventions** for prevention, emergency response, restoration and peacebuilding efficiently, and in consolidating peacebuilding pathways towards sustainable development. The methodological framework will employ the **collection** of relevant data and the use of open-source data in modeling the probability of climate security risk due to potential impacts under different exposure and susceptibility to a climate hazard, following the vulnerability and lack of adaptive capacity that prevails in the locality. This will provide the opportunity for **forecasting** and **developing** a robust multi-dimensional early warning and preparedness system to track and safeguard peace and development.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ **Knowledge of contextual analyses** of climate security **risks** and **solutions** are available for informed decision-making and mediation in consolidating peace, enhancing humanitarian and national development priorities.
- ▶ There is **improved coordination, partnerships, collaboration** and **increased participation at all levels in delivering** climate security risk solutions for peacebuilding, and the availability of **tools** for mitigating conflicts, safeguarding peace, and building climate resilient, and low carbon development.



CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

unmiss-spokesperson@un.org

unmiss-odsrsg-rc-hc@un.org



UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH SUDAN

