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Climate adaptation investments in conflict-affected states

This policy brief provides a call to understand risks differently and increase financial support, including climate adaptation finance.

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This policy brief is based on findings from two previous Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) studies '[Exploring the conflict blind spots in climate adaptation finance in the Sahel and Horn of Africa](#)' and '[Exploring the conflict blind spots in climate adaptation finance](#)', an outcome paper from a roundtable, organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Bank, on '[Working together to address obstacles to climate finance in conflict and fragile settings](#)' held in October 2021 and the United Nations Development Programme 2021 study '[Climate finance for sustaining peace: Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts](#)'.

This paper aims to influence policy-makers in the climate, humanitarian and peace-building communities of practice, as well as country governments that are facing fragile and conflict-affected situations, to re-think the risks and increase financial allocations to the least developed country (LDC) sub-group of fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Throughout this policy brief it is key to note current understandings of the interplay between climate change and conflict. These include:

- [Climate change can undermine efforts to secure peace and stability, with climate hazards not only directly impacting people and their livelihoods, but also indirectly exacerbating existing conflict and fragility, and in turn creating new conflicts.](#) However, this is highly context specific and poses uncertainties in attribution.
- Conflict and fragility can increase people's vulnerability to climate change and constrain their ability to adapt. For example, livelihoods can be lost, reducing the affordability of adaptation, and people often migrate to areas that are more vulnerable to climate risks.
- The type and status of conflict and fragility affects the degree of people's intersecting vulnerabilities to other threats, with the role of conflict as a driver of vulnerability to climate change possibly becoming more important than the role of climate change as a mediating factor in conflict in many contexts.

- Covid-19 has amplified people's vulnerabilities in FCAS, limiting people's access to adequate public services and affecting livelihoods.

Therefore there is a need for financial providers of climate-related activities in FCAS to acknowledge the complexities behind localised interplay from the threats of conflict and climate change, and therefore take risk-informed approaches.



Women carry water back to their homes in Wolgeba village in Halaba Zone, Ethiopia
Credit Image by Nahom Tesfaye / UNICEF Ethiopia - CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

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