HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT PEACE AND SECURITY?

Story by: Cedric de Coning & Kheira Tarif
Script by: Travis B. Hill • Art: John DeLuca • Letters: Micah Myers

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise. In Iraq, summer temperatures can reach above 50°C. By 2050, these extremes could become the norm, with rainfall decreasing by 9 per cent.

Climate change leads to unpredictable rainfall patterns, with more frequent floods and droughts. Colombia and many other countries are experiencing more extreme weather.

The effects of climate change can increase the risk of conflict. Under pressure from growing scarcity of resources, some people resort to violence to protect or gain access to water or land.

Violent conflict weakens community resilience to the effects of climate change.

The NUPSI Boardroom

NUPSI and SISRI provide Norway and other countries on the UN Security Council with evidence on the effects of climate change on peace and security.

Climate change is fundamentally changing the peace and security landscape.

Norway will, together with the countries affected, make climate, peace, and security a priority for our work on the UN Security Council.
1. Livelihood deterioration

Years-long drought has decimated our livestock. Because of conflict, we cannot move the few animals we have left to the market. Soon we will have nothing to live off.

2. Migration and mobility

In Iraq, higher temperatures and unpredictable rainfall make it harder for many families to make a living from farming, and many look for work in cities like Basra.

3. Military and armed actors

In Afghanistan, conflict has damaged irrigation systems and climate change is diminishing rainfall and water sources. We have to turn to opium poppy cultivation to feed our families.

The opium trade is a revenue source for armed groups and criminal networks.

4. Political and economic exploitation and mismanagement

In South Sudan, powerful elites have encouraged cattle raiding to increase the size of their herds, limiting the access of smallholders to livestock, pasture, and water.
The U.N. Security Council

We believe that a security lens is not enough. The Security Council should also focus on climate-peace-development nexus.

Mediators, peacekeepers, and peace builders need to understand how climate change impacts their work.

Together with the countries that face both climate and conflict risks, we must identify not only the challenges, but also the opportunities for peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Research evidence is crucial for countries on the Security Council to develop appropriate responses to the effects of climate change on peace and security.

We need to fill the library with more evidence about how the effects of climate change influence peace and security.

Our research shows that supporting collaborative action and resilience is key to preventing climate-related security risks.

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THE STOCKHOLM PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE POTENTIAL CONFLICT IS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS. WE NEED TO DO MORE TO ACHIEVE THE PARIS GOALS.

CONFlict INCREASES A SOCIETY’S VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE. ACTIONS TO SUSTAIN PEACE CAN ALSO MAKE SOCIETY’S MORE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

TO PREVENT CONFLICT WE NEED TO HELP STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

TO DO THAT WE NEED MORE CONFLICT-SENSITIVE AND PEACE-FRIENDLY CLIMATE FINANCING.

THE U.N. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS RARELY THE MAIN DRIVER OF CONFLICT, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE A PART OF OUR ANALYSIS.

CONFLICT IS A RESULT OF HOW PEOPLE DECIDE TO RESPOND TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

CLIMATE CHANGE DOES NOT CAUSE CONFLICT. PEOPLE DO. CAN WE STRENGTHEN THEIR ADAPTIVE CAPACITY SO THAT THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE COOPERATION WHEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?