

# Nexus Climate Change/DRR and Fragility



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Learning Event CC/DRR and  
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# A Short Introduction



# Context (i): Some Facts and Figures



- Violent conflicts within states are increasing worldwide.  
“By 2030, half of the world’s extreme poor will live in fragile and conflict-affected countries”
- Due to climate change, weather extremes are increasing in terms of frequency and intensity.

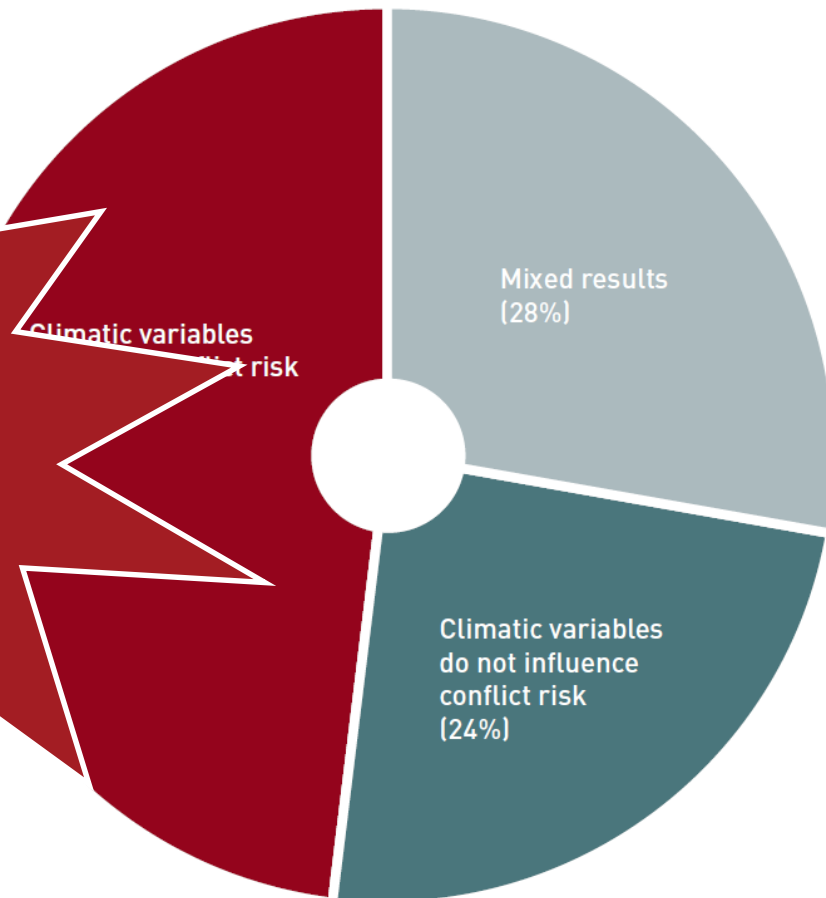
## HOWEVER....

- Climate change and environmental degradation are **one possible driver** of enhancing conflicts.
- Growing number of studies analyzing the relationship between CC and violent conflicts → The relationship have, however, produced **mixed evidence** and the link is not always clear.

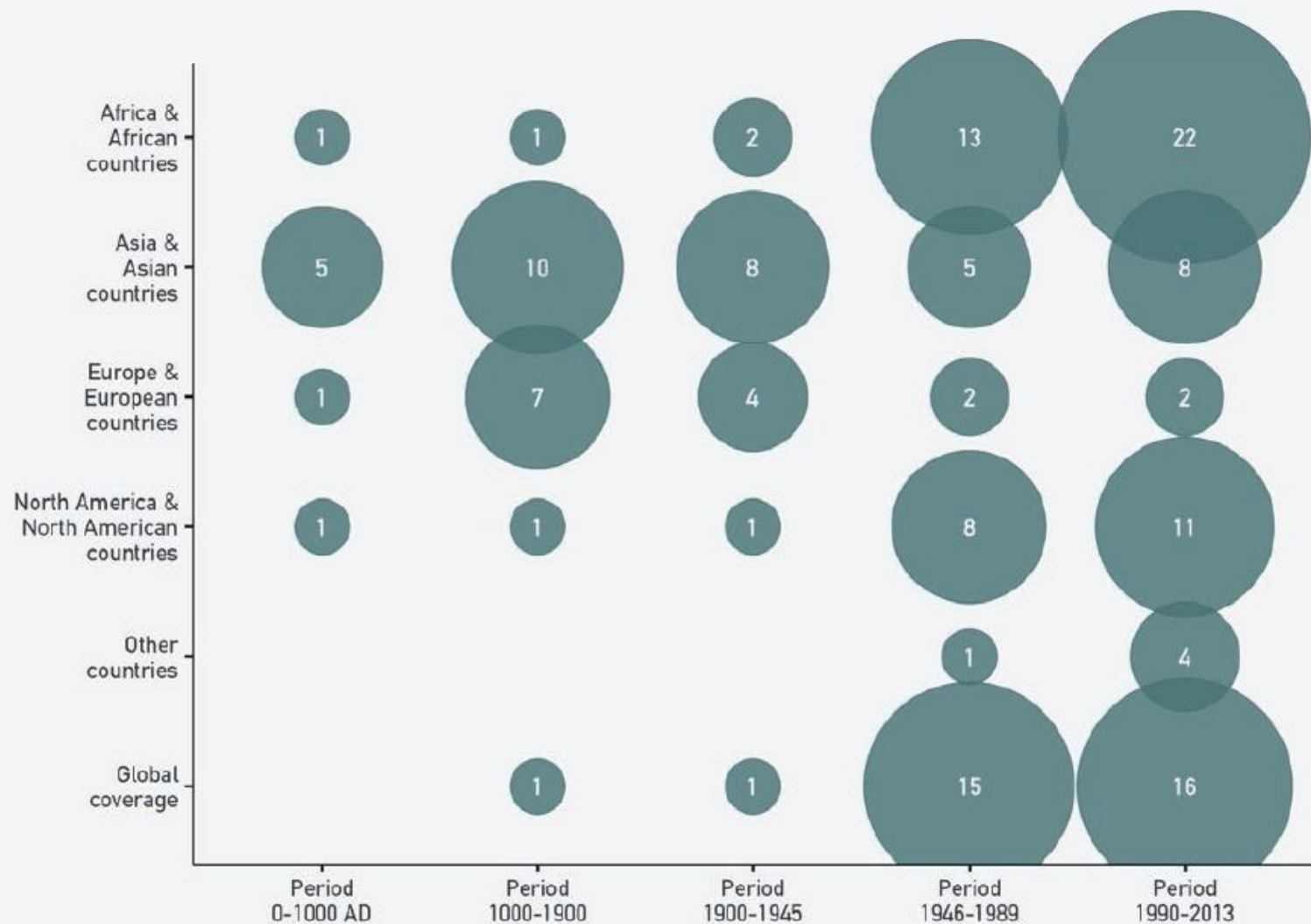
# Statistical evidence: Relationship between CC and violent conflicts

“Climate and conflict do not interact in a uniform and unambiguous way. While some studies find a systematic relationship between higher temperatures and stress, analyses of temperature variability and armed conflicts are mixed evidence”.

No single agreed-upon measures for climate and conflict



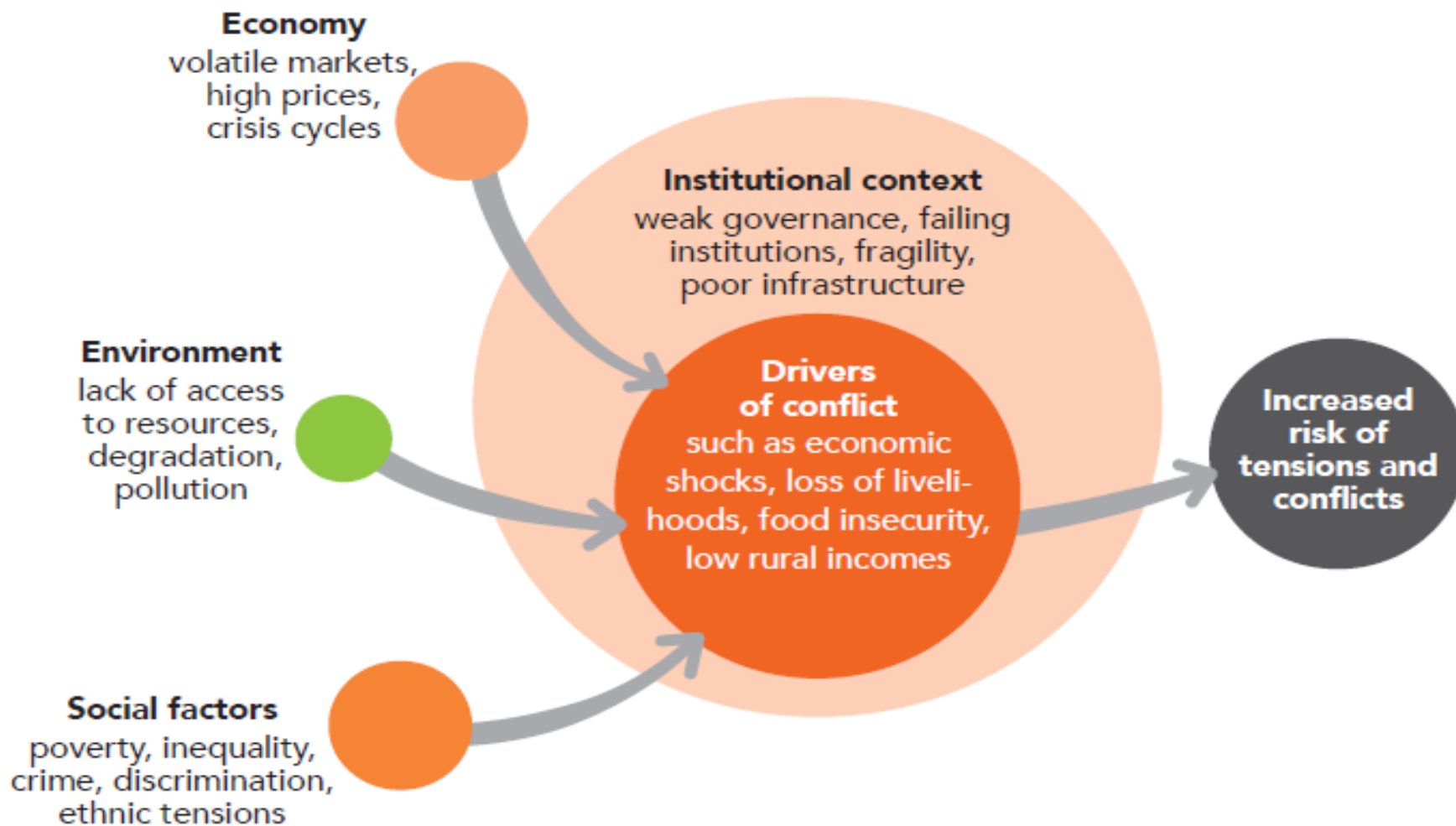
# Quantitative climate-conflict research at a glance



### Some tendencies

- Nexus CC-Fragility is highly dependent on **local context**.
- **Context matters:** Violence in connection with climatic extremes is more likely to occur where institutions are weak and people are excluded from power.
- **Social and economic factors have an influence:** Declining rural incomes play a key role in connecting climatic shocks and conflict risks in some countries.
- Some argue that migration acts as a **transmission mechanism** between climate shocks and violence.

## Context (ii)





# Some figures

## Some of the largest disasters on record have occurred in challenging contexts

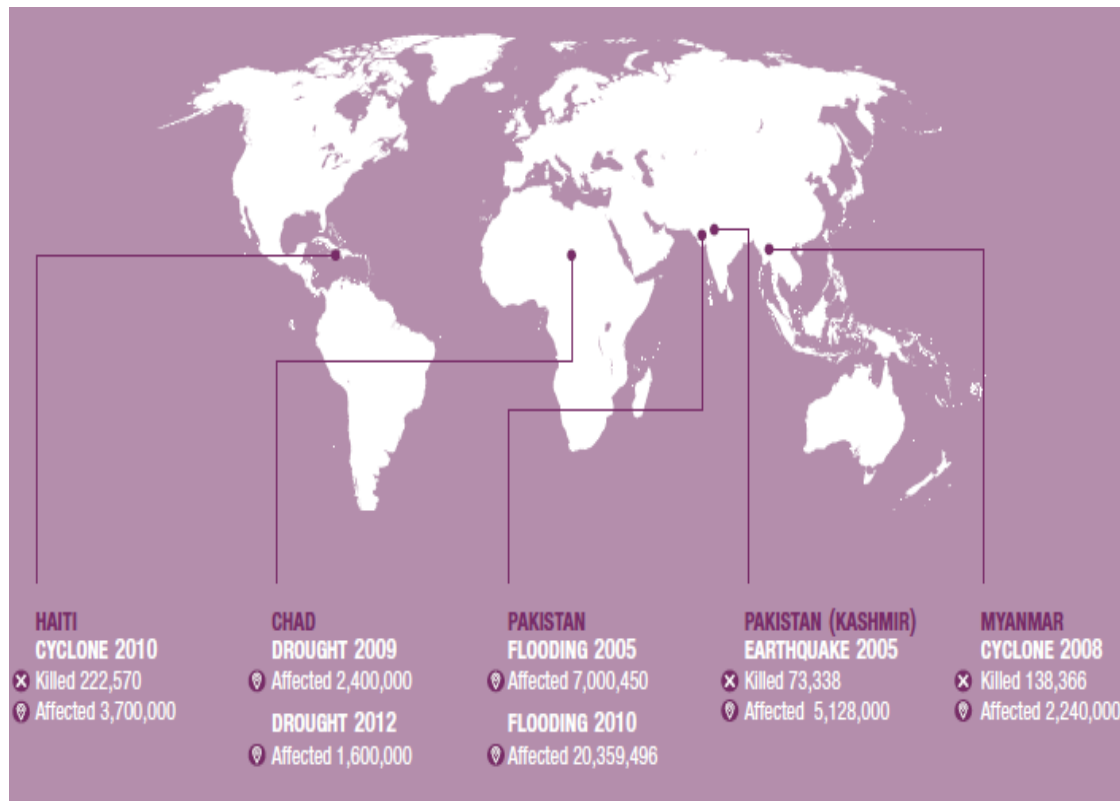
Many disasters occur in fragile and conflict-affected states, accounting for a high proportion of disaster-affected populations each year<sup>129</sup>

# 50%

Between 2005 and 2009, more than 50% of people impacted by natural hazard-related disasters lived in fragile and conflict-affected states.

# 80%

In some years the figure was more than 80%.



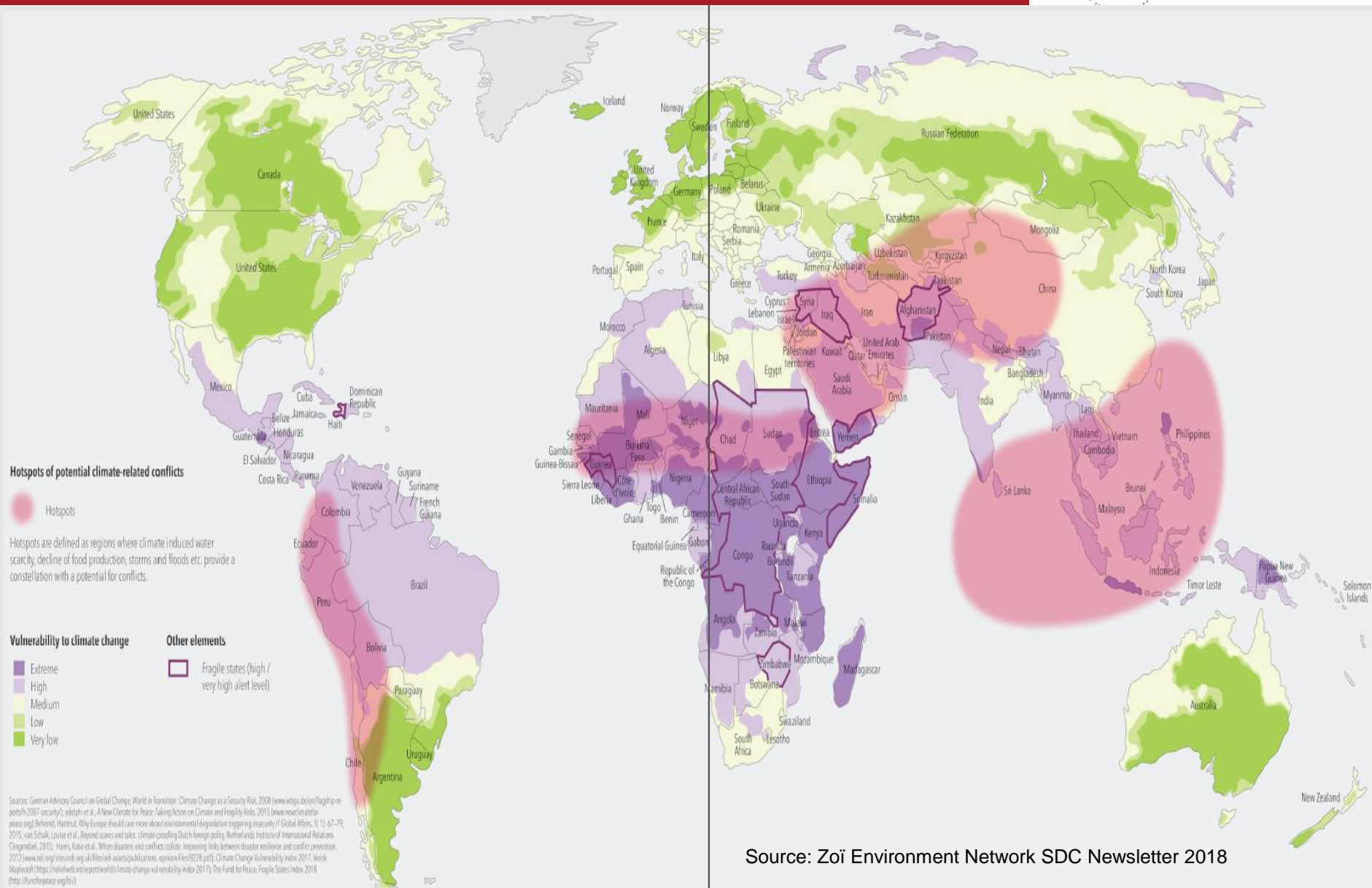


# DRR and fragility

**The 20 countries ranked most at risk due to high levels of fragility, disaster, poverty and climate change vulnerability combined**



# Potential for climate-related conflicts



# IPCC (2014) : Climate Change and Conflict

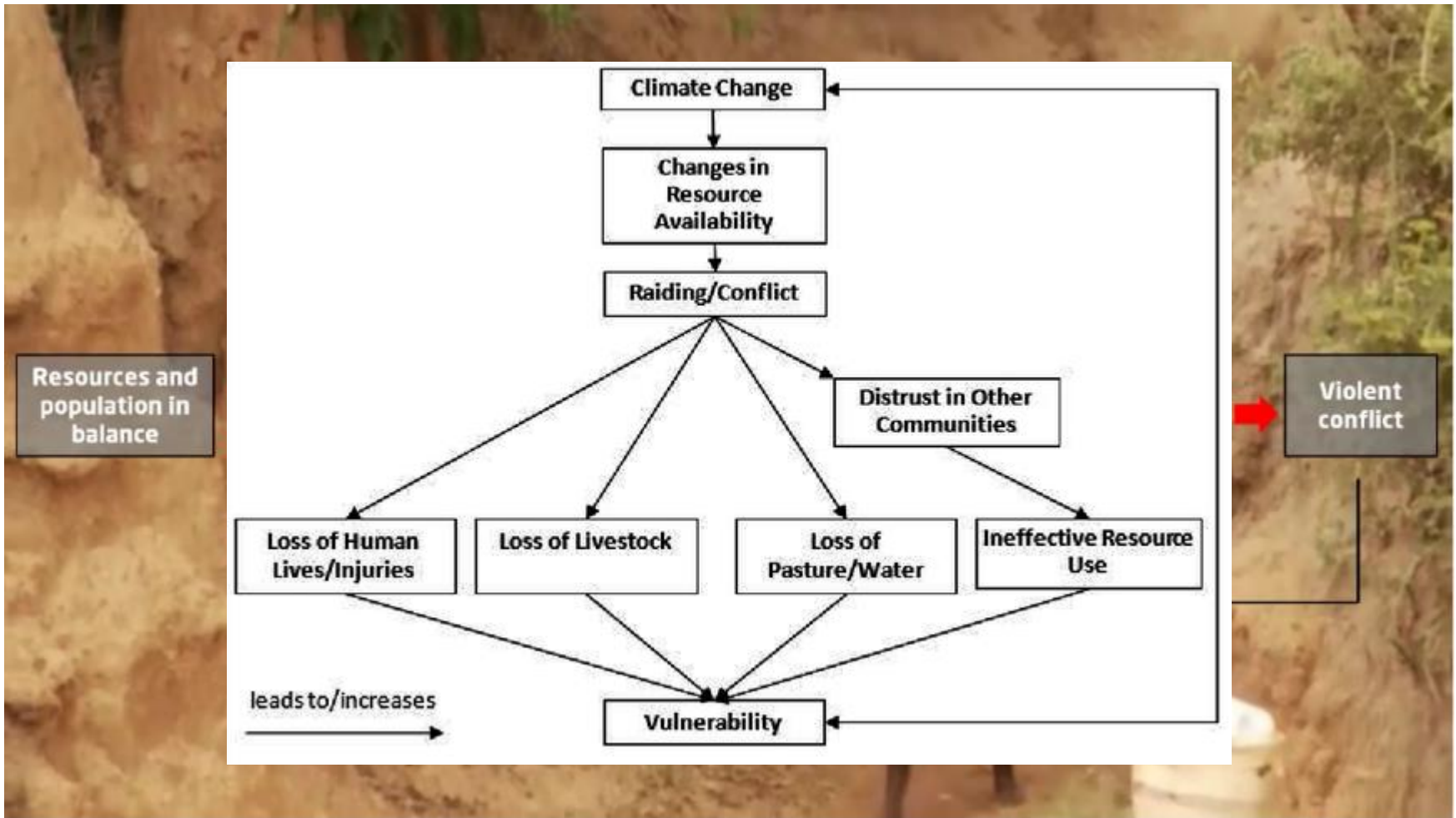


Causality between climate change and violent conflict is difficult to establish due to country-specific sociopolitical, economic and cultural factors.

## Tendency:

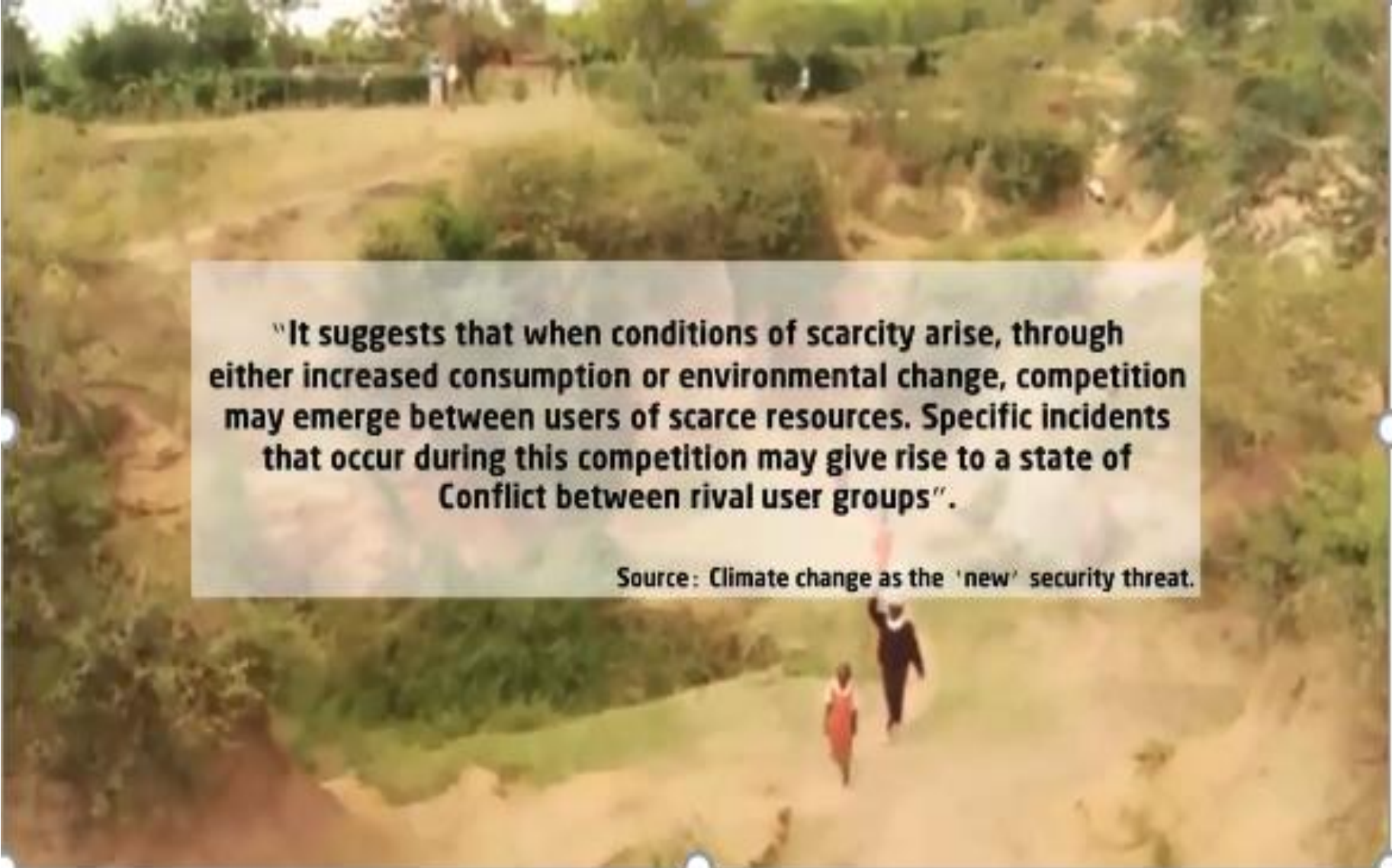
- **Violent conflict increases vulnerability to climate change.** Large-scale violent conflict harms assets that facilitate adaptation (including infrastructure, institutions, natural resources, social capital, and livelihood opportunities).
- **Climate change can indirectly increase risks of violent conflicts in the form of civil war and inter-group violence by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks.** Multiple lines of evidence relate climate variability to these forms of conflict.

# Interlinkage between environmental changes and conflicts





# Interlinkage between environmental changes and conflicts



**"It suggests that when conditions of scarcity arise, through either increased consumption or environmental change, competition may emerge between users of scarce resources. Specific incidents that occur during this competition may give rise to a state of Conflict between rival user groups".**

Source: Climate change as the 'new' security threat.

# The current debate: what do we have today



## Conflict sensitivity

- **Principles for Good International Engagement** in Fragile States and Situations (2007) includes 'Do No Harm' as a core principle.
- **New Deal Peace- and Statebuilding Goals** (2011)
- **Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 16**
- **Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies** (2017) to fulfill the SDG 16 vision for peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.



## DRR/CC

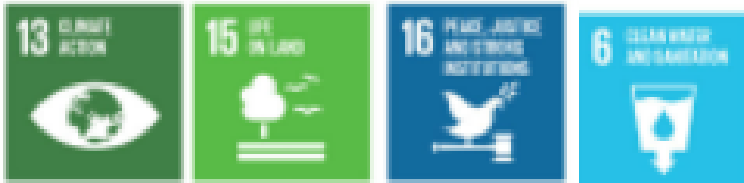
- Sendai Framework (2015-2030) with its 4 main Priorities for Actions.
- UNFCCC/IPCC: Aware about the nexus CC-Fragility

# Policy Response on the nexus CC-Fragility



## ■ At the International Level

- Various frameworks (Sendai, UNFCCC, Roadmap for Peaceful just and inclusive societies)
- SDG Goals: Interlinkages among different SDG Goals



**BUT ! No joint approach/framework** to tackle the issues related to the nexus CC-Fragility (e.g. disaster displacement platform).

- **Regional Initiatives:** E.g. Resolution 2349 on Lake Chad

## ■ At the local level

- Adaption to changing climatic conditions can play an important role in preventing emerging climate-security risks.
- Careful planning is required to address climate and social risks.
- The type of hazard (slow or sudden onset disasters) needs to be considered which might require different responses/interventions.



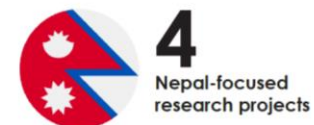
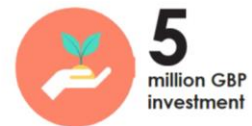
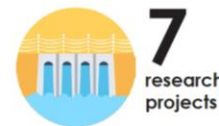
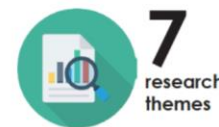
# Policy Response on the nexus CC-Fragility



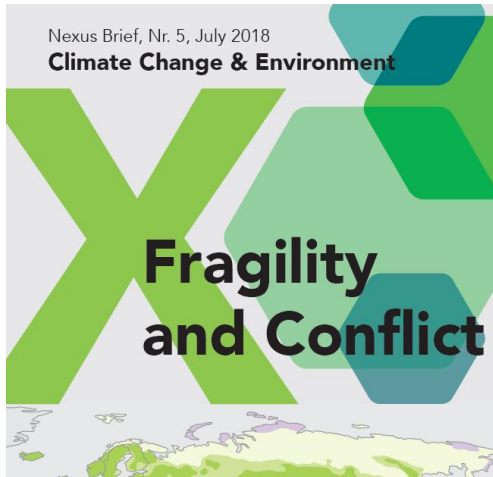
## BUT

Although resilience is guiding donor reflection on combining CC/DRR and fragility, **the topics continue to be addressed separately and funding for a joint approach is very limited and challenging (silo).**

Interesting research programme:  
Conflict and Cooperation in the  
Management of Climate Change  
(CCMCC)



# Some references on analyzing the nexus CC-Fragility



## Putting Dignity Back into Humanitarian Assistance – Supporting Community Resilience in Armed Conflict and Protracted Violence



### ABSTRACT:

Conflict and disasters are on the rise, corresponding with an increase in demand for humanitarian assistance beyond the delivery capabilities of humanitarian agencies. At the same time, the effectiveness and legitimacy of humanitarian assistance is being challenged as people, communities and local organisations affected by crisis feel their voices and capabilities are being ignored or undermined by the international aid system. In response there are calls to strengthen community resilience that builds on the local capacities of affected populations, although concerns have been raised about an approach that places greater emphasis on local resources and promotes endurance and self-reliance during periods of protracted violence.

Despite these concerns it is apparent when public institutions and civil infrastructure fail that local people provide the primary means to survive and endure. By observing how people and communities sustain themselves in times of conflict eight core principles underpinning community resilience are identified (Diagram 1), together with the relative strengths and limitations of a resilience approach. In conflict situations, community resilience and humanitarian assistance share similar aims in terms of sustaining lives, preventing suffering and maintaining human dignity, although they have different ways to achieve this. The right to life with dignity is considered the cornerstone of humanitarian action and community resilience. According to IFRC, the mark of a resilient neighbourhood is its commitment to human dignity for all who reside there.

Like community resilience, human dignity does not stand in isolation. It involves treating people with ethically, respecting their capabilities and sense of self-worth, and placing people at the centre of governance and accountability arrangements – issues at the core of recent sexual exploitation scandals involving aid workers. Whilst what a humanitarian agency does in terms of meeting the basic needs of disaster victims is essential to sustain lives, how it does this is fundamental to maintaining human dignity. Important given the words of a Syrian refugee “life without dignity is a living hell”. In a drive to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance the aid industry has defined the minimum standards (Sphere Project) for sustaining life, but in so doing, may inadvertently have undervalued the importance of human dignity which is not concisely defined. Whilst standards are important for survival they are not a guarantor of life with dignity.

In this context, a principles-based approach to supporting community resilience can provide a practical model for humanitarian agencies to assist people affected by conflict to sustain life with dignity. Conversely, the provision of external assistance without supporting community resilience may increase fragility by pushing aside local capacities, increasing dependency on short-term foreign assistance and missing opportunities to connect local actors to recovery and peace-building processes. In conclusion, supporting community resilience can have multiple benefits across the humanitarian-development divide: from improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance; supporting early recovery and peace building processes; and over time, contributing to transformative changes in cultural norms and values towards a more resilience and thereby sustainable society.

### CONTENTS:

1. Introduction
2. Understanding community resilience in conflict-affected urban centres  
Table 1: Core principles - Community resilience
3. Community resilience and humanitarian assistance
4. An approach to supporting community resilience in conflict and insecurity
5. Conclusion: Strengthening community resilience - Sustaining life with dignity

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## NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY: Climate, Migration, and Conflict in a Changing World

Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation  
Discussion Paper | November 2016

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<https://environmentalpeacebuilding.org/>

# Thank you !

