

Report

LEARNING EVENT: Nexus CC/DRR- Fragility **6 November 2018; 9:15 – 16:15, Helvetas office, Bern**

The political and social context can determine how disaster and climate risks impact people's lives and how well they are able to recover. This requires a thorough awareness and understanding for a successful consideration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) mechanisms to adjust and improve coordination, advocacy and advice. This is particularly important but also complicated in the case of conflict affected and fragile contexts, when governance mechanisms and institutions are generally weak. Nevertheless, humanitarian aid as well as development cooperation programs and projects of Swiss NGOs and SDC are often located in fragile and conflict affected contexts. This learning event sensitised practitioners on how climate and social risks can be minimized in a systematic way when planning and implementing projects and programmes in fragile and climate affected settings and foster the linkages with disaster risks. This was done through two main elements: the experts participating in the workshop exchanged experiences in a group work and through a case study. Moreover, a new approach to tackle risks in fragile contexts combining climate change, disaster risk reduction and conflict sensitivity (based on the [3 steps manual working in fragile and conflict affected contexts](#) and [CRISTAL / CEDRIG](#) risk assessments) which Helvetas has elaborated was shared with the group. First hands-on experience from the testing in Borana in Ethiopia was presented.

Learning event

The event was addressed to NGOs practitioners and staffs of SDC involved in projects and programmes working in disaster affected and fragile situations.

Objectives: Enhance the thematic competences of participants in the field of DRR/CCA in fragile and conflict affected situations:

- i) Experts exchange experience about practices, lessons learned and challenges in the field of DRR/CCA in fragile and conflict affected situations;
- ii) Participants have a better understanding about the interlinkages between DRR/CCA and conflict;
- iii) Participants are sensitized on how potential risks are minimized in a systematic way when planning and implementing programs in a climate and fragile affected contexts.

Documentation

The detailed programme can be found in Annex 1. All presentations, case studies and further background material from the learning event can be downloaded from the Platform website <https://drplatform.org/event-list.html>

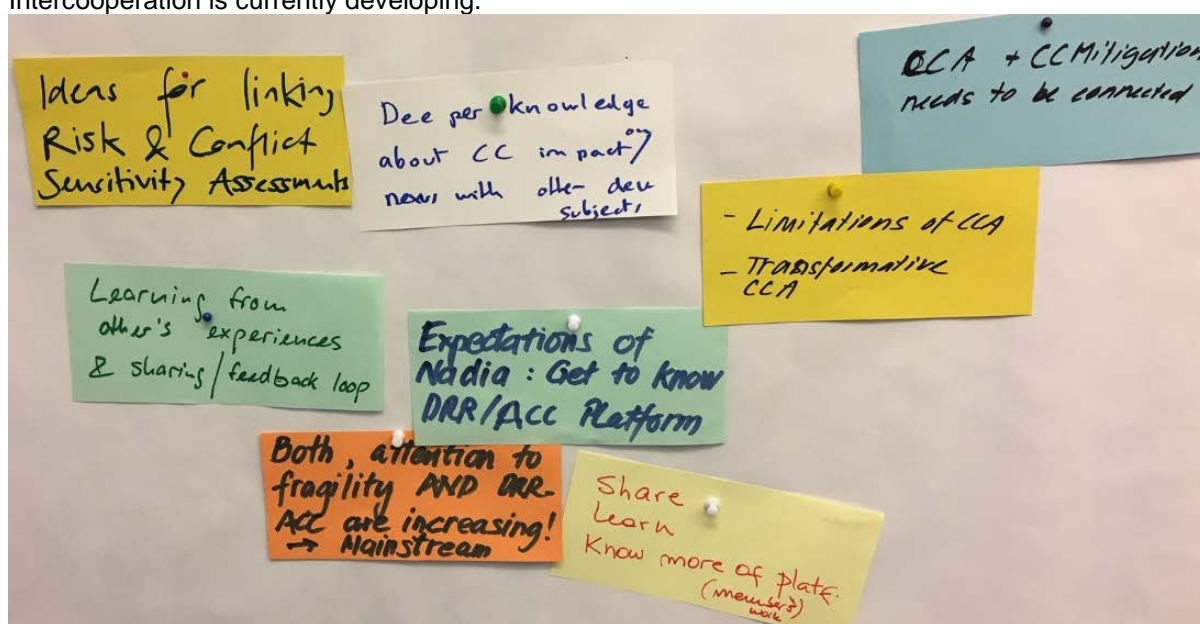
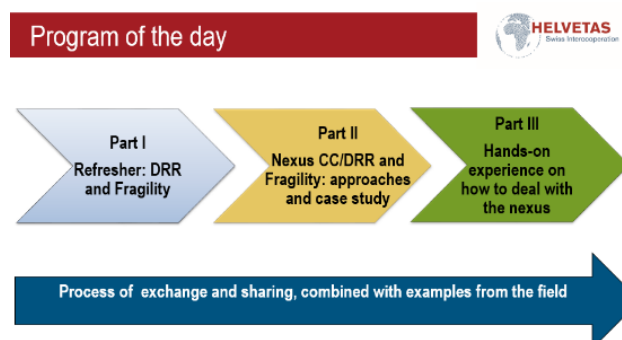
Contact: nicole.clot@helvetas.org; regula.gattiker@helvetas.org

Part 0: Welcome & Introduction

The facilitators shared the main objective of the day and highlighted the key aspects of the upcoming event.

After an introduction round, the expectations of all the participants were collected and shared in the plenary. The expectation expressed by the participants matched well with the expected results identified.

The expectations expressed by the participants focused mainly on learning more on the nexus CC/DRR-Fragility and to learn about the instrument which HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is currently developing.



Expectations expressed by the participants

Part 1: Refresher on Fragility/Conflicts and DRR/CC

Presentation on fragility and social conflicts

Key elements: Most of the countries we are working in today in the context of development cooperation are not stable. It is important to distinguish that it is not always the entire country which is not stable, but only certain regions (e.g. Colombia).

At the international level: Peace and Stability has been integrated into the SDGs, particularly SDG 16, which means that we need to link development with peacebuilding.

Sharing of the 3 STEPS for Working in Fragile and Conflict affected Situations, approach developed by HELVETAS and Swisspeace. There is a manual¹ and a field guide² available.



MANUAL :
3 STEPS FOR WORKING IN FRAGILE AND
CONFLICT-AFFECTED SITUATIONS (WFCs)



¹ https://www.helvetas.org/Publications-PDFs/2013_hsi_manual_3_steps_wfcs.pdf

² https://www.helvetas.org/Publications-PDFs/field_guide_working_in_fragile_and_conflict_affected_situations.pdf

Remember...

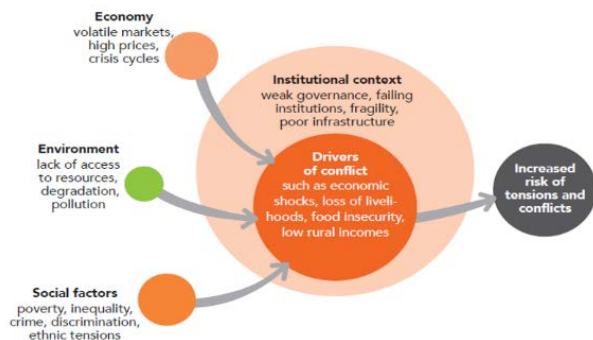


1. Everything we do has consequences.
2. We are always part of the context.
3. Conflict Sensitivity is not only relevant in violent contexts.
4. When we are conflict-sensitive, we think of the impact of our interventions and behaviour on the conflict context we work in.

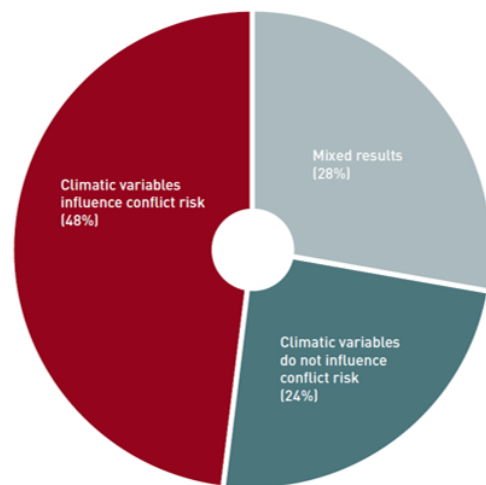
The presentation on DRR/CC as an introduction was skipped since all participants have experience in working in disaster risk reduction and/or climate change.

Presentation on Nexus CC-Fragility

Key elements: While it is clear that violent conflicts within states are increasing worldwide and the tendency of extreme weather events in terms of frequency and intensity as well, the relationship between CC and violent conflicts is not always clear. It is also important to emphasize that climate change is not the only driver of conflict, but rather a stress multiplier that can lead to a heightened risk of violence and conflict in an already instable setting.



Source: Züj Environment Network, SOC Newsletter 2018



Source: [Climate and Conflict: Reviewing the statistical evidence, 2017](#)

At the international level, there are various international frameworks (Sendai, UNFCCC, Roadmap for Peaceful just and inclusive societies) taking into account the nexus between Climate Change and Conflict, yet there is no joint framework/platform to tackle the issues related to this nexus (e.g. as the disaster displacement platform on the nexus migration-CC).

Case Study 1: DRR programming in fragile context – Experience from Swiss Red Cross in Honduras and El Salvador

Key elements: Both countries are characterized by a very high homicide rate (one of the highest worldwide) and are at the same time highly prone to all kind of disasters. The SRC program is multi-sectoral with a focus on health, social inclusion and the strengthening of DRM/CC. Due to conflicts/violence, SRC had no access to the communities. The toolkit CSPM is very helpful as it is a learning journey to go through in a participatory approach.

Lessons learned: Plan for the worst, hope for the best, to be flexible is key in such conflict affected contexts. Invest in training and awareness raising for your staff; focus on changes (outcomes rather than on activities). It is particularly important to have alternate solutions, especially in conflict and violent contexts where projects need to be adapted.

Group Work 1: Experience Exchange

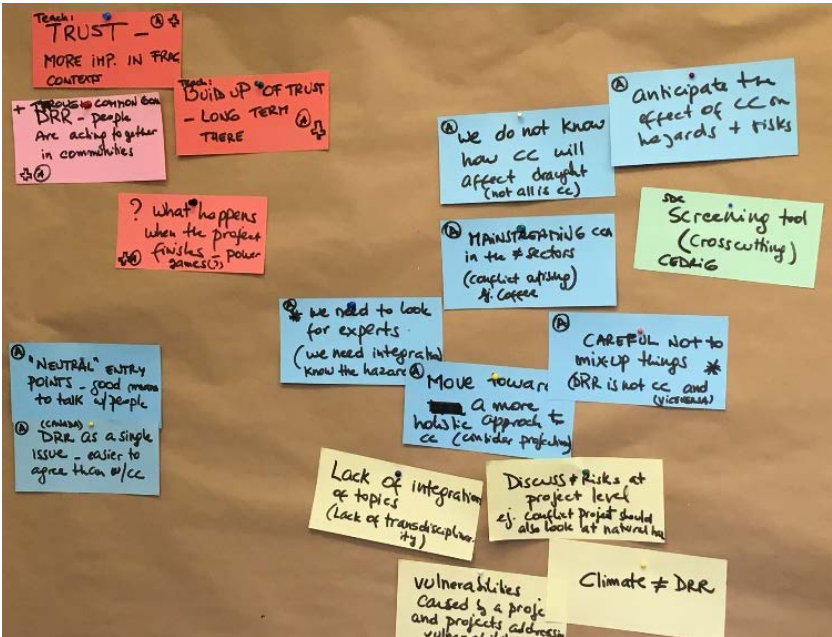
Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What did you find particularly interesting or surprising in the Swiss Red Cross' presentation?
2. How does this relate to your own work/the work of your organization?
 - How do you tackle the nexus of climate change and fragility/conflict in your organization?
 - What are the most challenging issues?
 - What interesting experiences would you like to share with your colleagues?
 - What do you plan to do in the future around that topic?

Filter out the 3 most important key messages from your discussion (considering the different experiences and/or challenges of all organisations present in the group) and share them in the plenary (e.g. cards/flipchart, human photos etc.)

Key messages

- Use DRR as an entry point for natural resource governance
- Work with non-traditional development actors (e.g. IUNC; WWF) in ecosystem-based DRR
- Value traditional and indigenous knowledge
- No stand-alone DRR → need to link to other issues
- Building up trust is key
- DRR can act as a door opener/neutral entry point to discuss more sensitive issues related to conflicts
- DRR as an entry point for natural resource governance
- No standalone DRR → need to link it to other issues



Challenges

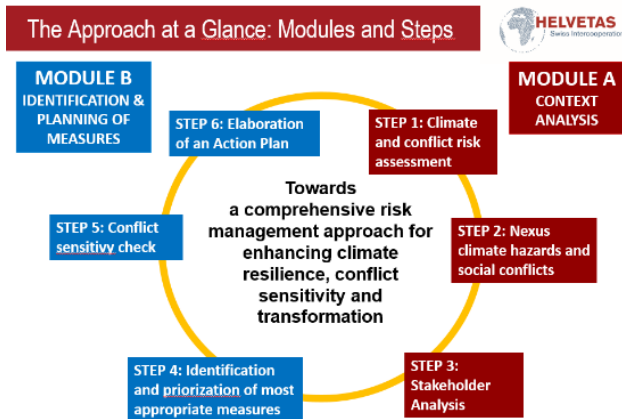
- Weak institutions, migration short-term funding as a challenge to nexus approach
- Trust – more challenging in a fragile context, but the more important in fragile context
- Careful not to mix up different things (not to mix up CC and DRR)
- What happens when the project finishes (power game)
- Vulnerabilities caused by a project and projects addressing vulnerabilities
- Neutral entry point

Case Study II: Towards a comprehensive risk management approach for climate resilience, conflict sensitivity and transformation developed by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Key elements: Orientate and support practitioners working in the context of conflicts. It is not a new tool but combines existing approaches in the field of fragility and climate change (e.g. 3-Step Approach to working in fragile and conflict-affected situations; CRISTAL, CEDRIG). This joint approach leads to a series of **six steps**, structured in **MODULE A** and **MODULE B**. The instrument has just been tested in Borana Ethiopia and first results were shared during the workshop. The diverse feedback received by the participants during the LE will also help to adjust the instrument. HELVETAS intends to apply the instrument in one or two other occasions and to finalize/adjust the tool accordingly.

Most of the afternoon was then dominated by the discussion on the usefulness of such an instrument developed by HELVETAS. No time was unfortunately left for the 2nd group work which should have focused on an exercise on systems mapping by using two concrete examples (SRC case study and one example of HELVETAS in the North of Mali).

In conclusion, the LE on the nexus fragility – CC/DRR has confirmed the importance of analysing this nexus in more detail to better understand how these two issues influence each other. Most of the members of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform who were present expressed interest in further exploring the issue. HEKS, for instance, showed particular interest in applying the instrument currently under development by HELVETAS.



Reference List:

- Navigating complexity : Climate, Migration, and Conflict in a Changing World, Discussion Paper, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation 2016
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/ecsp_navigating_complexity_web_1.pdf
- Climate and conflict: reviewing the statistical evidence: A summary for policy makers, Climate diplomacy 2017
https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/CD%20Report_Quant_170418%20screen.pdf
- Topic guide: Conflict, Climate and Environment, odi 2014
https://www.international-alert.org/sites/default/files/Climate_TopicGuideConflictClimateEnvironment_EN_2014_1.pdf
- Conflict and fragility (in the context of HFA) , odi
<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9468.pdf>
- When disasters and conflicts collide, odi 2013
<https://www.odi.org/publications/7257-disasters-conflicts-collide-improving-links-between-disaster-resilience-conflict-prevention>
- Conflict Sensitive Program Management in Helvetas, Manual: 3-Steps for Working in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations
https://www.helvetas.org/Publications-PDFs/2013_hsi_manual_3_steps_wfcs.pdf
<https://www.helvetas.org/en/switzerland/what-we-do/our-topics/governance-peace-migration/conflict-transformation/conflict-sensitive-program-management>

Annex 1 : Program

Time	Content	Methodology	Responsible
9:15	Welcoming: short introduction of the program, objective and presentation round of the participants including the collection of their expectations	<i>Interactive</i>	Nicole Clot (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)
Setting the scene			
9:45	Refresher CC/DRR and Fragility	<i>10' DRR/20' Fragility</i>	Nicole Clot and Regula Gattiker (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)
10:15	Nexus CC/DRR and Fragility		Nicole Clot and Regula Gattiker (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)
10:30	Introduction to the Case Studies		Nicole Clot
Sharing of experience			
10:35	Case Study I: DRR programming in fragile context - Experiences from Central America (from Honduras and El Salvador) including questions of clarification	<i>Presentation 20'</i>	Grégoire Labhard (Swiss Red Cross)
10:55	Introduction to Group Work I (including group division)		
11:00	Coffee Break		
11:20	Group Work I: Experience exchange		Participants
11:50	Sharing of results (Gallery walk) and plenary discussion	<i>Plenary discussion 3 main key messages</i>	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (Sandwich)		
13:30 – 14:30	Case Study II: Towards a comprehensive risk management approach for climate resilience and conflict sensitivity (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation) including clarification of questions & answers		Nicole Clot/ Regula Gattiker (HELVETAS)
14:30	Introduction to Group Work	<i>Group Work</i>	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
14:45	Group Work II: Identification of climate resilient and conflict sensitive measures	<i>Case study</i>	
15:45	Exchange in plenary	<i>Plenary Discussion</i>	All participants
16:10	Wrap und and closing (incl. evaluation) Closing 16:20	<i>Evaluation sheet Platform</i>	Nicole Clot and Regula Gattiker (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)

Annex 2 : Participants list:

	Last name	First name	email	Organisation	Position
1	Cracco	Marina	mcracco@gmail.com	epfl	
2	Labhardt	Gregoire	Gregoire.Labhardt@redcross.ch	SRC	
3	Macchi	Judith	judith.macchi@heks.ch	HEKS	Advisor DRR and CCA
4	Niederer	Susanna	su.ni@gmx.net		Climate Resilience Professional
5	Schaltegger	Ernst	schaltegger@innovabridge.org	Innovabridge	
6	Schmid	Jacqueline	sjc@eda.admin.ch	SDC	SDC / DRR Policy Advisor
7	Zuodar	Nadia	nadia.zuodar@eda.admin.ch	SDC	DRR program officer
8	Clot	Nicole	Nicole.clot@helvetas.org	Helvetas (organizer)	Advisor Adaptation to Climate Change
9	Gattiker	Regula	Regula.gattiker@helvetas.org	Helvetas (organizer)	Advisor Conflict Transformation