



Institute for Security Studies

# WORKSHOP REPORT

An adaptation partnership workshop series report

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND PEACEBUILDING:

Developing conflict-sensitivity guidelines  
for adaptation policy in Africa

Climate change adaptation and its relationship to the mitigation or prevention of conflict and supporting resilient societies in fragile or conflict-prone areas have received minimal scholarly or political attention. Yet, climate change remains one of the most important factors in the changing landscape of Africa today and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Developing a practitioner's toolsets and policy frameworks for conflict-sensitive adaptation to climate change impacts is essential. In November 2012, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of State, in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Wilson Center), Institute for Security Studies (ISS), and the International Resources Group (IRG/Engility), convened a climate change adaptation (CCA) workshop at the Wilson Center to provide an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to identify and debate the threats and opportunities presented by climate adaptation. The workshop assembled both African and US-based experts from multiple levels of the climate change, adaptation, development, natural resources, peacebuilding, security, and diplomacy communities to collaborate to better understand one another's priorities, objectives, and needs, and to begin thinking about a new framework for action that is inclusive of climate change adaptation and peacebuilding goals. The meeting focused on current research, policy interventions, and gaps in knowledge, and included a simulation exercise developed specifically to increase cross-sectoral understanding and help build a new community of practice at the nexus of climate change, conflict, and development.

From 14 to 16 October 2013, the Conflict Prevention and Risk Analysis division of ISS, Addis Ababa office, the Wilson Center, IRG/Engility, and ICF International convened a three-day follow-on workshop titled 'Developing conflict-sensitivity guidelines for adaptation policy in Africa'. The workshop was held in Addis Ababa and created a platform for African and Western scholars to debate and examine the triumphs and downsides of climate change-coping strategies on the continent. An ethos of learning and mutual enlightenment among scholars was promoted as a continuation of the effort from the first workshop. Whereas the first workshop attempted to explore a number of issues on the impact of climate change in Africa, including the challenge of raising awareness and building a new community of practice at the nexus of climate change, conflict, and development, this second workshop reconvened the core group of experts to deepen and broaden the community of practice. It sought to identify guiding principles to support conflict-sensitive climate change adaptation efforts. Additionally, the workshop was designed to identify specific entry points of opportunity and practical ways for incorporating conflict-sensitivity in adaptation planning and policy responses from key institutions and policymakers, which will serve to promote peacebuilding and climate-resilient development across a range of sectors and institutions within Africa and abroad.

Specific objectives of the workshop:

- To **facilitate** the ongoing development of a community of practice around the issues of climate change adaptation and peacebuilding, setting expectations and

identifying targeted opportunities for sustained activities around issues important to the community

- To **discuss and evaluate** lessons learnt and good practices in climate change adaptation and conflict resolution, to highlight needs and priorities, and to identify opportunities for cooperation to reduce risk and build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in fragile or conflict-affected environments
- To help experts develop conflict-sensitive climate change adaptation guidelines that support effective climate change adaptation efforts in fragile and conflict-affected countries, **turning awareness into action**
- To identify concrete ways to **mainstream** this new inclusive set of guidelines into national action plans or similar implementation opportunities in Africa by devising a communications and information dissemination plan to be presented to implementers

To achieve these objectives, the workshop sessions were composed of informative presentations by various experts, plenary and interactive sessions, and a site visit to a farmer's community in rural Ethiopia that provided participants with the opportunity to put into context issues discussed throughout the workshop.

## Outcomes and recommendations

A number of observations, outcomes, and recommendations emerged by the end of the workshop. To summarise, participants:

1. Reviewed recommendations that emerged from the first workshop, discussed best practices and lessons learnt, and debated how to integrate conflict-sensitivity measures into climate adaptation plans and activities
2. Surveyed the toolsets and strategic frameworks used in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and discussed the potential opportunities in climate adaptation that exist for incorporating conflict-sensitive frameworks into implementation plans
3. Began identifying a set of comprehensive guidelines or principles for conflict-sensitive adaptation planning and programming
4. Conveyed enthusiasm for the continuation of the community of practice beyond this two-part workshop series under the adaptation partnership to sustain the knowledge sharing and development of this joint field of practice. Several members volunteered to spearhead specific next steps, such as drafting a concept note for potential funders to develop case studies looking at programmes that take into account conflict sensitivity in adaptation programmes, and creating a listserv where members can share updates with the group on their own research or field of study.

Overall, the workshop aimed to promote, critically expose, and develop practical guidelines to usher both theoretical, and practical efforts in emphasising the peacebuilding and climate adaptation nexus.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### Welcoming remarks

**Ambassador Olusegun Akinsanya, Regional Director, ISS Addis Ababa Office, Ethiopia**

Ambassador Olusegun Akinsanya opened the workshop on behalf of the ISS by welcoming participants and partners. The ambassador highlighted the necessity of the workshop and reiterated that Africa is among the most vulnerable regions of the planet that are likely to be negatively impacted by climate variability, further exacerbating the scarcity of natural resources and potentially contributing to conflicts over access and ownership. 'This,' he said, 'has affected human security on the continent.' This vulnerability is also attributed to Africa's low adaptive capacity. Over the last several years, it has become apparent that mitigation on its own will not be sufficient to combat climate change. Hence, adaptation is now a priority, especially for developing countries, due to the differentiated impacts of climate change. In recognising the difficulty of reaching a universal consensus on climate change, the ambassador called for an acknowledgment of differences and simultaneous trust and tolerance among nations. The ambassador concluded by establishing issues of human security, good governance, and rule of law as possessing an objective importance and, specifically, as the goals and agendas for which the ISS strives.

**Roger-Mark de Souza, Director: Population, Environmental Security and Resilience, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**

For Roger-Mark de Souza, the workshop was a landmark opportunity to engage in a joint effort to address the increasing influence of climate adaptation on human security. After acknowledging the unique inputs of the diverse bodies that made the workshop possible, De Souza emphasised the need for a new look at climate adaptation and the special role that concrete practices could play in such an endeavour. Climate change is a gamechanger in which yesterday's solutions cannot be used to address today's challenges. After giving thanks to all partners and participants, De Souza recommended actively presenting and continuing to engage stakeholders by conceptualising and contextualising the issue of climate change in Africa and beyond.

## WORKSHOP DAY ONE: STRENGTHENING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

### Review of 2012 workshop

The first presentation by **Dr Debay Tadesse** from the ISS provided an in-depth review of the first workshop's content, objectives, and outcomes. After a brief background on the impact of climate change in Africa, Tadesse argued that there is little doubt that climate change poses one of the key challenges for Africa's economic development, human wellbeing, and peace and stability. At the international level, the debate on security implications of climate change has gained considerable momentum over the past several years, particularly through conflict over scarce resources that are depleted by environmental degradation.

Tadesse further elaborated on the nexus between climate change and conflict by stating that climate change has the potential to damage the natural flow of water and food security, could increase forced migration and raise tensions, and exacerbate existing conflicts or even trigger new ones. Adapting to the range of impacts of climate change in Africa requires attention at multiple levels, combining a focus on building more resilient local food and water systems with national plans for food security and national resource management.

The speaker stressed that Africa's vulnerable position is precipitated by the weakness of its adaptive mechanisms, resulting from its lower developmental status. In Africa, competition for limited resources increases the potential for conflict. Here the unpredictability of the climate (eg droughts and floods) undermines existing allocation of natural goods and leads to migration, thereby causing conflicts over scarce natural resources, including water.

Tadesse conceptualised responses to climate adaptation in Africa as a way of coping with environmental changes that are both unpredictable and inevitable. Hence, the issue of adaptation is not simply reserved to a single body, but requires joint collaboration to guarantee food and water security. Both theoretical and practical approaches in responding to climate change must recognise the crucial nature of adaptation.

The first workshop revealed the need to continue raising awareness for policymakers in Africa and beyond on climate change adaptation and peacebuilding; for special emphasis on the donor community in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts arising from climate change; identify gaps in existing literature on conflict and climate change and develop new case studies for the new joint field; and for creating an online network of resources and a database on climate change for researchers and practitioners in the area.

## Facilitated discussion on expectations and focus for follow-on workshop

To assess the expectations of the participants for outcomes of the workshop, **Dr Peter Schultz**, Principal at ICF International, posed three questions to participants:

1. What are your expectations going into the workshop?
2. What are your desired outcomes of the workshop?
3. What would you like to see as the next steps following the completion of the workshop?

Schultz asked participants to consider further questions throughout the three days together:

1. What have you worked on since the first workshop that we should consider in this one? What else are you aware of that has happened since the last workshop that should influence this workshop?
2. Which missing voices should we consider during the workshop's discussions?
3. What will success look like?

During the facilitated discussion, it was immediately evident that there was a significant amount of work carried out by participants that was influenced by the content of the first workshop. First and foremost was the development of the USAID Climate Change and Conflict Annex to the Climate Resilient Development Guide. This was a direct outcome from the meeting in Washington DC, and was extensively reviewed by participants during the follow-on workshop.

A second example was shared by one of the participants who provided updates on her research project in Tanzania with the plenary group. She explained how the first workshop expanded her perspective on the linkages between her work and the potential conflict dynamics. 'When I came last year,' she said, 'I hadn't really thought about the climate change and conflict nexus, although I had seen it in the field [in Tanzania] between pastoralists and farmers. Since the first workshop, I have had one field visit and was more sensitive to this link.'

Another participant working on climate change curriculum development in Ethiopia announced that a course in conflict management will be included in the university programme. This person is actively working with the Nigerian government to develop climate response strategies and said that while they are not directly addressing conflict, anticipating conflict stressors has been an aspect of the discussions.

Other relevant projects ranged from facilitated trainings for various high-level policymakers on the intersection of climate change and conflict to developing specific programmes on youth and resiliency that integrate information from the first CCA workshop to strengthen the

connections among migration, climate change impacts, and potential conflict triggers.

Several concerns were voiced, as participants thought about what was necessary for success going forward with the community of practice in the near-term, and considered the larger, longer-term policy issues. A need was identified to conceptualise the climate-conflict nexus further and ensure that the approach is inclusive and multidisciplinary. To accomplish this, more multipronged research is required on the interconnections of food security, climate change, population, health, conflict, and peacebuilding. Furthermore, recognition of local or indigenous knowledge of coping with climate change, crisis and security needs further examination.

Another concern was communication. Being cognisant of who the audience is when describing a field project and its importance to adaptation and conflict prevention is critically important to increasing the visibility and legitimacy of the community of practice. Conversely, recognising potential communications gaps between the practitioner and community with which he or she is working will correlate with the success of that programme. It was suggested that, as a community of practice, participants develop a system or method of scaling down information in such a way that it is accessible to, and understood by, local populations.

Several participants raised the need to bridge the gap between policy and implementation. In one person's experience, a programme she was administering in a local community was constrained in scope because of the regulations of national policy. Upon reviewing the policy and recognising that it did not take into account potential conflict outcomes, she noted:

*'We need to think about the conflict context in broader terms, because even where conflict does not exist, some of these policies coming down the tube can create the conditions for more local conflict. This is where climate change adaptation can interact with complexities on the ground and exacerbate where there is potential for conflict to exist.'*

Her statement touches on related issues of inclusivity of local knowledge in programme and policy planning, and on ensuring coordination of such planning between local and national bodies.

It was noted that the East African Community (EAC) has formulated a climate change master plan and policy and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) opened a Climate Prediction Centre. However, while the plan and policy is integrated into the national policies of member states, the dual challenges of securing financial and human resources have been major impediments to implementation. The group stressed that policies should be not only short-term in scope, but long-term as well.

Another concern was moving the group from awareness-raising to developing tangible outcomes that the community of practice would be able to incorporate in its work, on both a project and policy level. This was a recommendation of the first workshop, and several participants are eager to see it move forward. Arranging international workshops with UN-Habitat, such as soft-risk management tools and energy efficiency tools to mainstream security, was recommended, as was training US diplomats and representatives working on climate change adaptation policies and security in Africa.

One of the problems in Africa is the lack of access to climate change information through the education system. The need to disseminate information widely for all end users, and including climate change curriculum at primary and secondary level, were strongly suggested. Future generations will suffer most, so empowering them through knowledge is an important step forward in mainstreaming climate change. Engaging stakeholders and end users both separately and together will strengthen the success of the community of practice.

After a fruitful and interactive session, participants were ready to delve deeper into the specific tools and frameworks for conflict-sensitive programming, and begin to think about what that would look like for climate change adaptation policy and programmes.

## Conflict sensitivity guidelines and frameworks

### *Do No Harm*

A review of the Do No Harm (DNH) tool was presented by Nicole Goddard from the Collaborative for Development Action (CDA) DNH Programme. She explained that the principle of DNH stems from longstanding medical ethics and is geared towards understanding how development assistance given in a conflict setting interacts with conflict itself. It is intended to be applied in any type of intervention to mitigate the unintended, yet potentially negative, outcomes of a project, or mitigate actions that may aggravate already existing problems in a particular intervention context. Here, an attempt was made to synthesise the inputs of already existing adaptation efforts as a way of identifying guiding principles.

Accordingly, DNH emphasises how an intervention itself could fuel conflict. It focuses implementers on relationships between different groups involved in specific conflict contexts and serves as a normative point of departure for understanding conflict intervention. Through employing DNH, it is hoped that the implementer will be able to identify negative impacts of an intervention and pose more effective alternatives.

Goddard shared the following six lessons of DNH:

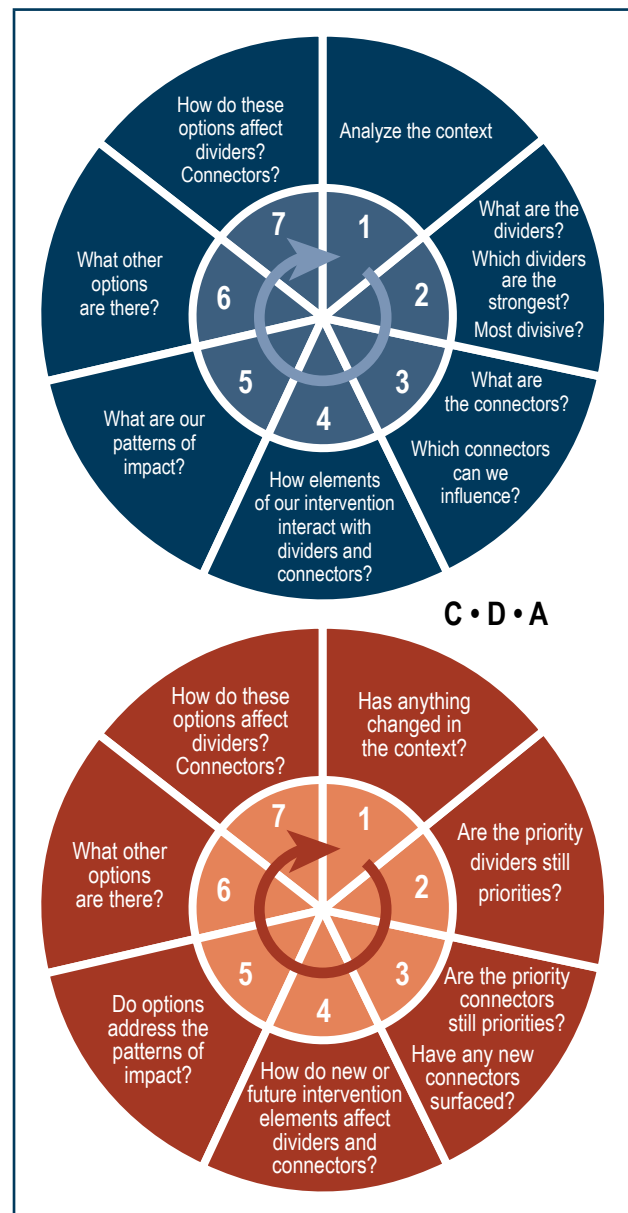
1. Any form of intervention cannot neatly be separated from the issue it tries to address. When an intervention of any kind enters a context, it becomes part of that context.
2. Dividers and connectors are present in all contexts. It is critical to identify these early on during the analysis to figure out who or what dividers will hinder or stall a programme and where the opportunities of influence are located among the connectors.
3. It is important to remember that all interventions will interact with both dividers and connectors and, therefore, the implementing partner must be cognisant of how these interactions will affect the intervention.
4. Interventions interact with dividers and connectors through their organisational actions and the behaviour of staff. It is important to ask reflective questions, such as how does your project impact the communities you are working with? Does it exacerbate divisions? Does it strengthen connectors?
5. The utility of an intervention is found in its details.
6. The presence of options is in all contexts. When using the DNH analysis on an intervention, it is best to develop multiple alternative interventions to ensure that yours does the least amount of harm in a particular context.

Goddard emphasised that DNH is not a substitute for other types of conflict prevention, but rather gives an insight on how to solve conflicts.

Goddard went through several examples of a DNH analysis with participants, using CDA's updated version of the analytical tool (see inset) and opened the floor to questions. One question pertained to the influence of external actors and their impact on climate adaptation contexts. Goddard argued that an implementer is but one factor in a complex context that is constantly changing. She reiterated the importance of revisiting an intervention and maintaining flexibility to adjust programming to reflect changes in context. However, it is understood that this can be difficult under certain donor parameters.

Goddard's organisation is thinking about the challenge of applying DNH in a climate-adaptation setting rather than conflict situation. 'The other challenge,' she said, 'is making the leap from policies to practice. It is helpful to think about policies as guidelines rather than a straitjacket.'

Participants debated what the adapted DNH programme might look like for conflict-sensitive adaptation programming and the viability of such a programme. The potential of climate change for peacebuilding, considering all the vulnerability of climate-affected communities, must be approached holistically rather than focusing on individual elements of a context. Furthermore, the sustainable nature of adaptation mechanisms must be emphasised above anything else and attention must be paid to the voices and insights of community members.



**Climate Change and Conflict:** An Annex to the USAID Climate Resilient Development Guide

**Dr Peter Schultz** presented on USAID's new Climate Change and Conflict Annex, which is a set of guidelines incorporated into USAID's Climate Resilient Development Framework for planning, designing, implementing and learning from programmes where climate change, and conflict have the potential to interact. He clarified that the Annex was born from USAID's Conflict Assessment Framework 2.0 and the need to incorporate climate as a factor in a conflict context.

As Schultz went through the document, he pointed out a few key points. First, an analysis of conflict dynamics should be the first step in designing any conflict-sensitive programme for climate change adaptation. Second, it is important to consider how climate change might have a 'multiplier' effect that exacerbates current conflict or conflict-prone societies, or, conversely, how climate adaptation could serve as a leverage point for

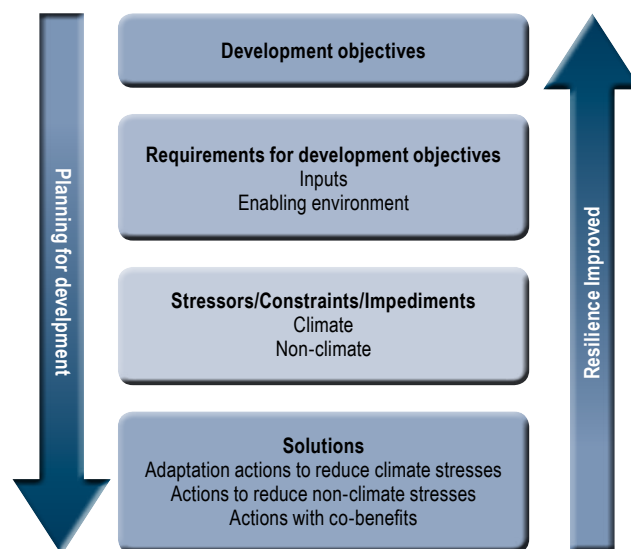
peacebuilding and a source of resilience. He described the framework used for the Annex (see image below), which is a development approach to peacebuilding and statebuilding from a climate resilience perspective. The general principles of such an approach are as follows:

1. Understanding and evaluating the context of a community or region where a programme is being implemented is the starting point to any climate adaptation project.
2. Ensure all programme activities are conflict-sensitive, thereby reducing as much as possible the potential to do harm to the communities where programmes are being implemented.
3. Infrastructure development and the promotion of good governance should be components of a climate adaptation programme to strengthen local social and institutional capacity understanding and management of climate and conflict risks, including support for effective adaptive capacities and conflict-management mechanisms.
4. Ensure a theory of change is included and clearly articulated.
5. Incorporate both top-down and bottom-up elements to ensure inclusivity into the programme from all actors, which will increase the legitimacy and salience of the programme.
6. Flexibility and adaptability of a programme are critical to remain relevant to the context and respond to uncertain, changing climate conditions. Institutions involved need to adapt and evolve to accommodate such responses in a way that permits flexibility, experimentation, and adjustments as they go along.

The practice and theorising of the relationship between environment and peacebuilding were emphasised. This practice situates climate change adaptation in a conflict analysis which involves context, institutional performance, and key actors' interests. On the topic of new conflict sensitivity guidelines, it was suggested that climate adaptation could potentially help in addressing conflict.

Schultz mentioned how climate change adaptation could potentially help to manage existing conflicts and prevent conflicts among a multitude of possible causes resulting from the impact of climate change. Participants engaged with each other on the issues of fragility, what a sustainable, holistic approach would entail, and how to ensure inclusivity of local voices in programme development and implementation. Schultz reiterated the need for a holistic and flexible approach and on the latter point, one of the participants stated:

*'Doing the analysis is important, but it is not enough. We need to make the adaptation to programming. Once one identifies a change that needs to happen, implementing that change is critical.'*



However, it was acknowledged that implementing a holistic and flexible adaptation or conflict project is a major challenge. It was suggested that, rather than trying to build every role into a programme, perhaps the community of practice could look at what its contribution could be to a more cumulative approach, with several actors or implementers participating and coordinating among each other – although this is a challenge in and of itself.

### Small group exercise: Identifying the missing links in adaptation plans

The first day of the conference closed with an exercise that divided participants into three groups, with a view of encouraging participants to think about what elements should be included in adaptation plans within a country based on the information gathered throughout the day. Mukul Sharma of IRG/Engility provided a brief overview of the goals of an adaptation plan:

- Reduce vulnerability by building adaptive capacity
- Understand and assess vulnerabilities
- Incorporate adaptation into policy planning
- Integrate adaptation into development goals
- Develop sector specific adaptation plans
- Improve institutional capacity and often establish new entities for climate and adaptation considerations

Each group was tasked with reviewing a national, urban or rural mock adaptation plan that the workshop partners devised, using content from existing plans that have already been implemented in an African country. Groups were asked to identify gaps in the plan, and extrapolate the potential consequences of the gaps, as well as identify opportunities to fill those gaps in planning.

The intended and achieved outcome of the exercise was to demonstrate clearly to participants that conflict sensitivity is not currently being built into adaptation plans, but the need to do so is great.

## WORKSHOP DAY TWO

### Site visit to the Sululta community in rural Ethiopia

Awareness of risk is a necessary step of adaptation. Adaptation reflects a proactive way of dealing with potential threats to social and material assets as a result of climate change. Understanding risk can also be used as a tool to define and predict what could happen in the future, given a range of possible alternatives. Assessing risks, based on vulnerability and hazard analysis, is a required step for adaptation measures.

Against this backdrop, participants had an opportunity to meet both local farmers and government officials, including the mayor of Sululta town, in rural Ethiopia. The discussion with the community focused on the impact of climate change on their livelihoods, with input by government officials focusing on climate change policy and strategy at the local government level. The aim was to exchange information among some of the main actors involved in developing and/or implementing climate change policies in Africa, as well as the end users affected by those policies, and conference participants to put into context how climate change affects communities. In addition, the visit helped to illustrate the negative impact of climate change combined with a growing population and poverty, and the potential high consequences for security in Africa.

### Climate change: Impact, implications, and solutions

Presentations began with **Mayor Seyom Haile** of Sululta, who discussed the causes and consequences of climate change in the region, as well as the different mitigation and adaptation policies and activities currently being implemented. According to him, the agricultural productivity level in the area is decreasing as a direct outcome of climate change, which he attributes to deforestation and the removal of other natural resources that led to variability in climatic conditions. This has resulted in changing rainfall patterns and increased competition between communities over scarce water resources. Increasing human demands on the environment, such as deforestation for wood fire and farming, has been a major contributor to environmental degradation in the region. Additionally, competition for water and land has led to low-level conflicts among groups.

Coping mechanisms include attempts to introduce adaptation and mitigation by the government, recognising local knowledge and the dependence of individuals on the environment, as well as awareness creation and societal mobilisation. As a solution to the conflict that arises from climate change stressors, the mayor suggested the formulation and implementation of an environment-friendly approach to sustainability, which would include the use of

ponds, terraces, and reforestation measures. The need was identified for technical assistance for the community through different adaptation activities.

### Climate change: Major causes in Oromiya Special Zone surrounding Finfine (Addis Ababa)

Following the mayor was **Teketel Abebe**, who works on finance and economic development in the Oromiya Special Zone office, which was established in 2007. Abebe explained that Oromiya is characterised by population density as a result of massive movement in the surrounding areas of the capital, Addis Ababa. Such intense population density resulted in very low social amenities. More specifically, the two major causes for the lower standing of the zone are policy failures and the ill-conceived assumption that the zone gets its basic provisions from the capital. Once the influence of the environment on human security was recognised, it was given priority by his office.

Abebe also explained the different statistical data relevant to climate change, adaptation, and mitigation programmes. He raised issues such as climate mainstreaming, social mobilisation in creating awareness, and employing adaptive methods as a solution to climate change challenges. According to the speaker, some of the concrete factors that prompted the incorporation of climate change adaptation to the level of policy formulation included:

- The dependence of development on the environment
- The fact that the environment still provides a means of income for individuals as well as regions in the country
- The growing assumption that the environment is a focal point of any discussion
- The growing attempt to incorporate climate change and adaptation into policy formulation

Abebe noted that other cornerstones will be to develop a more sustainable approach to responding to climate change, including joint efforts and the creation of new values and systems of thought that treat the environment as a point of analysis; the search for alternative and friendly technology, national policies that successfully analyse and integrate the environment into any discussion, having well-balanced population growth and, finally, the cooperation of different societies in dealing with climate change and adaptation.

### Sululta community farmers' reflection on livelihood impacts of climate change

Four farmers from Sululta discussed the impact of climate change on their own livelihoods. In the past, they noted that the area was highly populated with trees and other forms of indigenous vegetation, which resulted in regular rainfall.

Such dense forest also yielded a suitable climate in which to live. But currently, as a result of the growing deforestation fuelled by the pragmatic needs of the community, the ecological condition is not well-balanced. Despite efforts made by the government to introduce coping mechanisms such as terracing, the unpredictable nature of the climatic condition is still a huge challenge.

Deforestation is putting pressure on water security and destroys indigenous trees. As such, it was emphasised that current efforts at climate adaptation must not be limited simply to repopulating the forests, but should also encompass conservation methods that protect the integrity of existing forest areas. In the context of emphasising responsibility to future generations and developing a sustainable approach, the need for practical assistance from the government regarding climate adaptation was also mentioned. The government should provide the financial and technical assistance to help use the available water and other resources that the farmers already possess. The farmers stressed the lack of basic tools needed to use existing resources, stating that even though there are enough groundwater resources, they remain inaccessible and water shortage continues to be one of the major challenges in the community.

## Discussion

Workshop participants enquired about resource-based conflicts in the area and the awareness of the society. Community members told of limited occurrences of conflict over resources. Where there is conflict, traditional forms of conflict resolution are implemented through the community's indigenous insights as well as the voice of elders and intellectuals. While some conflict has been recorded over water use, it was addressed by the instrumentality of the local elders and social courts. Through the help of these village elders, as well as small group discussions, an attempt is made to address the conflict that results from the broader impacts of climate change. For the long-term, an attempt is being made to constitute a better conflict-resolution mechanism.

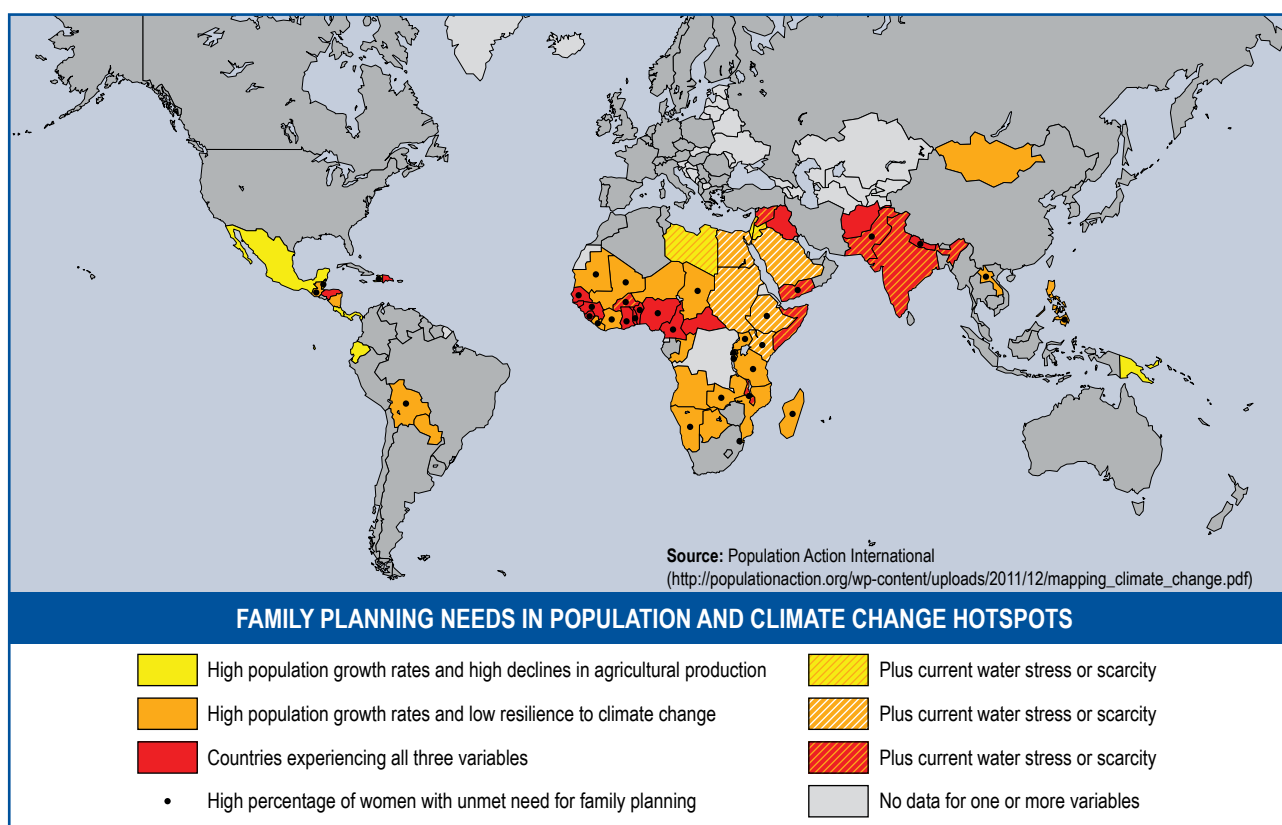
Although attempts are being made to address water shortage, it is still having a negative effect on productivity, and is particularly affecting women in their daily search for water in difficult conditions. To address these challenges, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are introducing drought-resistant techniques and alternative farming practices.

Several reflections and possible recommendations resulted from the site visit:

- An attempt must be made to accommodate different voices
- Capacity building for farmers to cope with climate change challenges through an adaptation plan
- Population dynamics must be properly analysed.
- Climate change is a heavier burden on rural women, hence the need to address this issue nationally and regionally.
- The relationship of health, education, and the rehabilitation of forest areas needs more attention.
- Development of a holistic approach that relates to land, water, population, and conflict.
- The need to understand the context in which the farmers' responses emerge.
- The main constraint lies not in having the conceptual tools, including indigenous knowledge, but in implementation mechanisms.
- The need to empower communities with proper tools and knowledge, without excluding the indigenous knowledge, is paramount. Addressing the problem should not be limited to lack of knowledge, but should include access to knowledge, which requires information dissemination through various forms.
- In Africa, deforestation and desertification are crucial aspects of climate change.
- Seasonal variation also poses significant challenges in rural settings.
- The limitation of adaptation mechanisms and the role of population dynamics also pose huge challenges in rural settings.
- Waste dumping and the uneven relationship between the weak rural settings and the more powerful urban settings also play a crucial part in combating climate change.

## Urbanisation, demographics, and vulnerability: The impact of population dynamics on climate and conflict in urban settings

In his presentation, **Roger-Mark de Souza** scrutinised the role of population dynamics in an urban setting, the risk those dynamics pose and the need for practical solutions. He focused on the interactions and connections among population growth, fertility, gender, family planning, and age structure, all of which compound risks related to climate change and conflict, particularly in urban settings. According to De Souza, rapid population growth is a potential contributing factor to the challenges associated with climate change vulnerability in a society. He demonstrated this point with an interactive map (see below) from Population Action International (PAI) that clearly illustrates the overlap between areas of high population growth and vulnerabilities to climate change, such as low resilience and low agricultural output. The map also takes into account access to family planning and shows the correlation among all variables.



De Souza explained that family planning is a major component of building a society that is able to withstand or mitigate climate variability, which will also contribute to preventing the emergence of climate-related conflict triggers. In the mid-1990s, the State Failure Task Force found that the single greatest predictor of state failure in the latter 20th century was high rates of infant mortality. De Souza argued that improved access to family planning and reproductive health services ‘can help women and girls overcome the constraints of gender roles and family responsibilities that leave women less agency, time and freedom to alleviate their economic burdens, achieve education and participate in community-based adaptation strategies’.

Turning from family planning to age structure, De Souza stated that most conflicts are caused by groups of the population who are relatively young. As such, even though age structure is not the sole cause of conflict, it aggravates existing disputes. According to PAI (2010), 80 percent of all new civil conflicts that occurred between 1970 and 2007 were in countries with at least 60 percent of the population under age 30. This statistic is supported by similar analyses conducted in other organisations looking at similar data through different lenses, such as the Centre for the Study of Civil War in Norway, which found that countries with a youth bulge are one and a half times more likely to experience conflict. While large youth populations may not be a direct trigger for conflict, they have the ability to add pressure to a conflict-prone or fragile society. Exacerbating factors include high unemployment rates and low education rates.

De Souza then focused on projected urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) specifically and the impact of these factors on climate and conflict vulnerabilities. SSA is currently home to around 900 million people, and is projected to grow to almost 2 billion by 2100 – the fastest growth rate in the world. This high population growth rate, De Souza explained, is driven by high fertility, and countries with high fertility often have youthful populations.

Additionally, De Souza explained that most of the expected population growth in SSA will be in urban areas at a rate that will foreseeably overwhelm governments’ abilities to provide adequate services. Climate change compounds the challenges of rapid urbanisation in SSA by making the urban population more vulnerable, thereby adding to insecurity and potentially leading to or exacerbating underlying conflict. De Souza cautioned that as demand grows, government responses to increasingly limited water supplies will also play a significant role in managing risk and preventing disaster. He argued,

*‘Analysing and planning for the increasing demands of growing populations on decreasing natural resource supplies allows for preventative action and proactive adaptation strategies, thereby reducing the risk of potential humanitarian disasters and conflict.’*

De Souza’s discussion was complemented with a presentation by **Dr Alfred Omenya**, Associate Professor and Head of School, Technical University-Kenya and Principal Researcher Eco-Build Africa. Focusing on the impact of climate change on the urban setting, Omenya discussed the current state

of urbanisation in Africa, how climate change impacts these cities and populations, and possible solutions to address the impacts and avoid triggering conflict in the communities. The speaker emphasised the link between growing urbanisation in Africa and the lack of capacity of governments to provide basic necessities to those living in slum settlements, which are expected to continue growing in the future.

Omenya reviewed what urbanisation really means in the African context. He stated that while Africa is the most rapidly urbanising region in the world, it is also the most vulnerable to conflict and climate change. He reviewed land tenure in settlement communities, increased inequality between marginalised peoples and those living in the formal setting, and the vulnerabilities of these communities through lack of infrastructure, sanitation, waste management, and access to clean water. He provided the example of Mombasa, Kenya, where he illustrated how climate change is impacting those on the ground, particularly vulnerable populations, via increased average temperatures and decreased rains, leading to drought and famine. Omenya demonstrated how floods and drought can profoundly affect cities, particularly when infrastructure and sewage are not properly developed. He said that extreme weather variability increases the risk of disease, especially when coupled with poor sanitation and housing.

Omenya discussed his work on urban mapping, where he found support for the correlation between increased urban migration to slum settlements, the lack of provisional services, and high incidents of urban conflict. Urban centres tend to focus on political violence, but Omenya argued that other forms of violence – domestic, ethnic, and economic and landlord/tenant violence – are more significant than political violence and call for policies. 'Clearly there is a link with youth bulge and poverty that, to some degree, can be linked with climate change impacts in rural and urban areas, and recruitment into vigilantes.' He delved into his urban mapping project where he has found that climate change impacts worsen quality of space, or social and physical infrastructure, which exacerbates spatial conflict situations.

Omenya stressed the following in his recommendations:

- Recognising the reach of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) programmes while developing a sensitivity to their limitations
- Working within regional and sub-regional programmes but still being conscious of their limits
- Enriching national and local programmes with climate adaptation incentives

## Discussion

It was proposed that a proper waste system in urban settings is indispensable, since urban waste directly affects rural settings. In most African states, waste is disposed of in the river that passes through the rural community, posing major health hazards to the population.

Regarding service delivery and rural-to-urban migration, an attempt was made to consider the particular impact of climate change in the urban context, as well as possible coping mechanisms. Lists of issues were used to establish the connection between peacebuilding and climate change in urban areas. Some points emphasised under climate impacts include:

- Unpredictable nature of the environment (eg rainfall too much or too little, rise in temperature)
- Fundamentalism tendencies in the youth fuelled by economic disparity (eg they can join gangs, extremism groups etc, since they may not get education or employment)
- Lack of basic provisions (eg water availability, energy, food security)
- Expansion of slums, crime, and other illicit activities
- Increased inequality
- Sea level rise, especially as it relates to coastal cities

Proposed solutions to address the impacts of climate change in urban areas include:

- The introduction of better coping mechanisms, such as public transport
- A better security system reform to consider climate change
- The need for a diverse force (eg police, civil, and military)
- Reproductive health
- Socioeconomic innovation (eg India);
- Development of sewage recycling systems in urban area
- The redesign of urban cities, encompassing parks and open spaces, which can also help to create jobs and a better environment.

## WORKSHOP DAY THREE

### National adaptation plans

**Mukul Sharma**, IRG/Engility, gave a presentation on national adaptation plans (NAPs), in which he pointed out that NAPs first came into the picture after the Durban, South Africa, conference of the 17 parties. NAPs were designed as short-term plans to be adopted by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LDEG).

The goal of NAPs, said Sharma, was to reduce vulnerability by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and to integrate climate change into policies, programmes, and activities. They are coherent and holistic approaches that address climate change impacts. The process is relatively new and has not yet been internalised by most countries. Some have adopted the approach, but others are just starting to push their government officials to initiate it.

He noted that NAPs are used by USAID as a mainstreaming approach that involves looking at the development goals of countries and then integrating adaptation. USAID has tested its approach in Jamaica, Tanzania, and a number of countries in West Africa. Its

plan is to have a stronger role at inception and then guide the process so that countries will take ownership of the process and develop their own priorities.

In conclusion, Sharma opened the floor for discussion, comments, and suggestions about the NAP process, which brought diverse feedback on how to make it holistic, incorporate principles like DNH, the conflict context of a country, and making the process inclusive and adaptive to changing circumstances.

## Discussion on NAPs

Recommendations put forward for NAPs included:

- Adaptation techniques must play a central role in conflict resolution
- Active community participation
- A contextual approach
- A holistic approach
- A joint effort on peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Conflict sensitivity education required

## Small group exercise: Conflict sensitivity guidelines and recommendations for adaptation

Generally, it was observed that one of the gaps on national adaptation is that all scales of impacts and contexts need to be considered, from the local to the national to the regional. Furthermore, on the rural level, there can be an over-concentration on top-down perspectives, improper analysis of context, failure to include women and address the community's needs, no proper analysis of possible impact, and a failure to recognise diversity and engage in a mutual dialogue.

The first small group suggested key principles specific to rural planning that include:

- Analyse existing local knowledge, capacities, and resources, and determine how to use and link all these into a climate change adaptation programme
- Link NAP planning and implementation to overall benefits for rural populations
- Involve local community perspectives in the development of NAPs and climate change adaptation intervention design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This could be through the consultation process, feedback mechanisms, and applying principles of respect, accountability, fairness and transparency
- Take into account specific dynamics of local context in the planning and include a multisectarian approach in the programming. Include a context analysis to incorporate conflict-sensitive approaches during policy- and/or project design-level implementation activities

The second small group suggested key principles and considerations to be made when making urban plans, including developing specific definitions for 'urban' or 'city'

and address the specific context of the target city since there are major variations across cities. Variations range from the consideration of the waste management frame, whether it is a coastal city, the specific governance system of a city, and opportunities and vulnerability concentrations, to security and threats specific to a particular city. Also, when addressing climate change in a city, include a comprehensive context analysis of factors such as demographics, gender, economic, education, and health, and include diverse mapping strategies (historical, household, vulnerability, hotspots, and institutional), since stronger mapping leads to better adaptation interventions, and better implementation of development policies and plans. The group also pointed out the importance of engagement and participation of all segments of society and urban plans that could provide, or possibly increase, government accountability without resulting in conflicts or corruptions.

The third group came up with key principles and recommendations for a national planning process that includes the harmonisation of common objectives between different national level policies through a conflict-sensitive lens. This requires a look at each separately for commonalities. It also requires a multistakeholder process, rather than through a single project, to promote horizontal and vertical linkages, including public-private partnerships. Moreover, a multistakeholder approach promotes cogeneration of knowledge by bringing together as many different groups as possible in a manner that is perceived as fair to all levels of stakeholders. The group also stressed the importance of incorporating a DNH framework and reviewing existing frameworks (eg USAID mainstreaming approaches) to inform the decision-making process and avoid duplication.

## CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD

Africa is among the most vulnerable regions on the planet and is likely to be negatively impacted by climate variability and change. The high vulnerability of Africa is attributable in part to its low adaptive capacity to cope with the changing environment. The poorest and most vulnerable will be hardest hit. Climate impacts will increase the scarcity of natural resources on the continent. The wide range of impacts will exacerbate conflicts related to access and ownership of natural resources.

Problems in climate adaptation are intrinsically related to peacebuilding and security. In addition to the challenges posed by existing resource scarcity, climate adaptation mechanisms in Africa have not been adequate. These factors reinforce the need to mainstream adaptation to address climate change and the related challenges.

Nations and communities need to work together to meet climate change challenges. Institutions play a critical role in addressing climate change. Sharing ideas, understanding practical necessities, addressing basic needs and ethical

responsibility are the cornerstones of the adaptation mechanisms that are made possible by institutions. In addition, in today's world of interconnectedness, a collective understanding is needed to ensure the effectiveness and conflict-sensitivity of chosen adaptation pathways.

The participants suggested a number of options as a way forward, with a unanimous agreement to keep the community of practice going and further develop the principles and recommendations with the objective of influencing policymakers, donors and other stakeholders.

### Specific conclusions and recommendations from the workshop included the following:

- Climate change adaptation can serve as a platform for peacebuilding and a source of resilience.
- The impact of climate change on agriculture, water, health and infrastructure will tend to exacerbate existing social tensions and/or have the potential to create new tensions.
- Proper analysis of existing adaptation and peacebuilding efforts is crucial to identify ways to increase the potential for peacebuilding within adaptation efforts and to identify adaptation benefits that can be derived from peacebuilding efforts.
- Countries should consider conducting a full conflict assessment that explicitly examines conflict dynamics around natural resources, the environment and climate change. The principles underlying the DNH framework should be incorporated in those analyses, including NAP processes. The analysis should be cross-sectoral.
- Conflict analysis should take account of how climate change might influence three factors: the context, institutional performance, and key actors' interests, resources, and strategies.
- A range of attitudes and structural factors needs to be taken into account when addressing climate change impacts. This includes accounting for gender, urban and rural population dynamics, and socioeconomic factors that pose unique challenges to climate adaptation. It also includes the importance of considering social roles at all levels as they relate to climate adaptation.
- Participation of all stakeholders is needed in combating climate change. Accountability, transparency, and responsibility of government officials at all levels are needed in the development and implementation of adaptation actions. Points of unity and divisiveness among stakeholders potentially affected by adaptation need to be identified to strengthen the effectiveness of adaptation actions.
- End users, including policymakers, need to be empowered with knowledge and tools to promote conflict-sensitive adaptation. Reliable data, perceived by all stakeholders as legitimate, are needed to inform adaptation planning.
- The community of practice must not be restricted simply to the development of ideas. It should focus increasingly on practical ways to implement emerging principles, including through field projects.
- More research is needed into the ways in which climate change adaptation, conflict, population dynamics, and poverty are connected. A project or set of projects should be developed that foster trust and build relationships across divided communities. These could be structured around improving water, sanitation and health.
- Already existing effective conflict-sensitive climate change coping strategies and examples should be documented and disseminated for the benefit of others.
- Training and communication channels should be developed that promote the lessons learnt and principles emerging from the community of practice.
- The community of practice's findings should be integrated into the development of national and international policies. Those policies must be accompanied by implementation and practice.
- Donor awareness should be raised about importance of and opportunities inherent in the joint consideration of climate change adaptation and conflict.
- The community of practice must be sustained to promote progress. For conflict-sensitive adaptation to have real meaning, it needs to be mainstreamed into the fabric of policies and institutions of practice at all levels of African governments. This requires inclusive and participatory methods that will be strengthened over time as we learn by doing.

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