UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROGRAMMING FOR CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Thematic Review and Guidance Note

MAY 2026

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Executive summary

Recent efforts to formulate climate, peace and security (CPS) programming guidance have focused on integrating climate change considerations into conflict analysis tools that are then applied to programming, as well as portfolio evaluations or meta-analyses of portfolios that have been funded by either climate or peacebuilding financing. With increased funding constraints, there is a greater need for coherent, risk-informed and scalable approaches across climate and peacebuilding financing as well as a more structured and consolidated body of guidance to support programming at scale. Budgetary pressures on UN Member States are forcing a shift towards working smarter and leveraging co-benefits between peace and climate outcomes, creating openings for merging funding windows for integrated programming.

To support and inform future CPS financing and programming, and following the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding (2023), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated a thematic review of selected CPS projects. As the largest implementer of climate and peacebuilding financing in the UN system and a core member of the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) since its inception, UNDP brings extensive operational experience in CPS programming with its on-the-ground presence in over 170 countries. UNDP CPS action has a global reach. Between 2023 and mid-2025, UNDP supported more than 56 countries through field initiatives spanning the Sahel, Horn of Africa, Central Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The publication is structured in two parts. Part I presents the findings of the thematic review, examining a sample of 15 UNDP CPS-projects across diverse regions, funded by both climate and peacebuilding streams, in addition to bilateral donors and the CSM. The review applied a mixed-methods approach, combining desk research, semi-structured interviews, two multi-stakeholder workshops, a validation webinar and an extensive peer review process, with both internal and external stakeholders. It identifies key thematic trends, responses, operational challenges and good practices, offering insights into what works and where gaps remain. Part II builds on these findings and translates them into a practical programming guidance note. The guidance addresses risk assessment, thematic prioritization, design and implementation models and monitoring and evaluation considerations, translating collected lessons into practical recommendations. Together, these sections provide an overview of the projects' achievements and a foundation for effective CPS programming.

KEY LESSONS FROM THE REVIEW

Catalytic investments create momentum. Small-scale pilots, including those funded by the CSM, proved effective in convening cross-sectoral expertise, fostering enabling environments, generating evidence and unlocking larger-scale investments, often leading to multi-funding source "portfolio" approaches

Field-driven approaches matter. Many initiatives emerged organically from country-level demand rather than top-down directives, ensuring contextual relevance and local ownership. Programming innovation did not happen in an isolated fashion. Countries that excelled in programming, also readily advanced CPS policy at the same time, in a naturally complementary manner.

Building portfolios requires investing in people and systems. Training practitioners (e.g., through the Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy), fostering cross-regional exchanges and strengthening institutional capacities are essential for sustaining integrated programming.

Partnerships as force multipliers. Collaboration with the PBF, vertical funds, regional organizations and bilateral partners enhanced legitimacy, reach and the ability to combine complementary expertise.

Bringing sectors together unlocks co-benefits. Breaking down silos between climate and peacebuilding actors enabled co-benefits that neither sector could achieve alone.

Advisory capacity is pivotal. CPS advisors, including those deployed via the CSM, provided a "first-mover" advantage and dedicated CPS expertise. This ensured field practice was linked to global policy and new opportunities opened through inter-regional exchange, learning and adaptation to local contexts.

Context-driven definitions. Effective CPS programming adapts language and framing to local realities, avoiding rigid, pre-set categories.

Policy alignment as both an input and an outcome. Successful CPS programming often advanced national or local policies, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), peace agreements or regional frameworks like the Boe Declaration and was, in turn, strengthened by them.

Evolving financing landscape. Early CPS funding depended on a few key bilateral partners and pooled mechanisms. More recently, other sources have become available. Such direct access opportunities for local actors, including youth- and women-led organizations may increasingly help shape the field in the future.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AR6	Sixth Assessment Report
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPS	Climate, Peace and Security
CSM	Climate Security Mechanism
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
PIFS	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TOC	Theory of Change
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Key concepts

Climate adaptation: The process of adjusting to current or expected climate impacts by reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience through measures at local, national and global levels ranging from drought-resistant agriculture and flood defenses to infrastructure upgrades and policy development.[1]

Climate change: A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.[2]

Climate justice: The principle of addressing climate change through equitable, human rights-based approaches, recognizing that those who contributed least to the crisis, especially vulnerable communities and future generations, should not bear its greatest burdens, while those most responsible carry the greatest obligation to act.[3]

Climate mitigation: Efforts to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions and enhance natural systems that absorb them, through measures such as transitioning to renewable energy, promoting sustainable land use and adopting low-carbon lifestyles aiming to limit global warming and achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century.[4]

Climate-related security risks: The different types of compound risks that result from the interplay of climate impacts, security and conflict.

Human security: UNDP defines human security as the protection of people from persistent risks and unexpected disruptions, enabling them to live free from fear, deprivation and want.[5]

Fragility: The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development defines fragility as a combination of exposure to risk and the insufficient resilience of a state, system and/or community to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks.[6] UNDP adds that fragility refers to the heightened risk of government and societal systems collapsing entirely or partially, resulting in the loss of development gains and a reversal of development progress when exposed to shocks, including violent conflicts, natural hazard disasters, epidemics and price volatility, among other factors.[7]

Conflict-affected countries: Countries which experience armed conflicts, widespread violence, or political instability, where there is a high risk of harm to people due to insecurity, weak governance, or systematic violations of human rights.[8]

1 UNDP. (2023). *The Climate Dictionary*. (accessed November 2025).

2 UNFCCC. (1992). *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

3 UNDP. (2023). *The Climate Dictionary*. (accessed November 2025).

4 Ibid.

5 UNDP. (1994). *Human Development Report 1994: New Dimensions of Human Security*.

6 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2025). *States of Fragility 2025*.

7 UNDP. (2023). *UNDP's Offer on Fragile and Conflict-Affected States*.

8 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2016). *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Third Edition*.


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Introduction

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1. Background

CPS refers to the complex and interlinked ways through which the climate crisis affects peace, stability and security, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Climate change exacerbates food, water and livelihood insecurity, heightens competition over natural resources and drives displacement. These factors can deepen vulnerabilities, existing tensions and social divisions. In many fragile and conflict-affected settings, these risks may be compounded by weak institutional capacity, limited state presence and eroding public trust, which can prolong hostilities and hinder peacebuilding efforts. Conflict, in turn, can damage natural systems and obstruct mitigation and adaptation efforts, thereby worsening environmental degradation.

In some cases, such as for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), climate change poses acute human security challenges and can even create existential risks for communities. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion and extreme weather events intersect with geographic isolation, economic vulnerability and resource scarcity, threatening livelihoods, governance systems and cultural identity, among others.

Vulnerabilities are not experienced uniformly. Gender norms, power dynamics and patterns of marginalization shape how individuals and groups experience insecurity and engage in resilience-building or conflict resolution efforts. Evidence shows that when women, youth and marginalized groups are meaningfully included in training, decision-making and programming, responses tend to be more inclusive, sustainable and effective. At the same time, inclusive and context-specific climate action, both adaptation and mitigation, can serve as an important entry point to build peace, foster cooperation and strengthen social cohesion. Efforts to restore degraded land, promote equitable water governance or expand renewable energy access, for example, can support both climate resilience and peace dividends, when thoughtfully designed and implemented.

The interlinkages between climate change, peace and security increasingly shape national, regional and global agendas. Within the UN, the UN Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission have acknowledged these connections, through debates, statements and resolutions.[9] The CSM, established in 2018 and comprising the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), UNDP, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Department of Peace Operations, has enhanced the systematic analysis of climate, peace and security linkages and provided strategic guidance to the UN entities and Member States, through catalytic field initiatives and the deployment of advisors to special political missions, peacekeeping operations and regional organizations from the Global South.[10]

Recent milestones further underscore this growing global recognition. At the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Egyptian Presidency launched the 'Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace' initiative[11] while the COP28 saw the endorsement of the 'Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace' by over 90 Member States and 40 institutional partners.[12] At COP29, the launch of the Baku Hub and the associated 'Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery' further strengthened global cooperation on climate finance for countries facing the intersecting challenges of climate change, fragility and humanitarian needs.[13] The African Union Commission has also recognized climate change as a threat multiplier and a driver of insecurity, reflected in the 'African Leaders Addis Ababa Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action'[14] and the ongoing development of the 'Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security'.[15] At the sub-regional level, Sahelian countries adopted the 'Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum: Bamako Declaration' in 2023.[16] In the Pacific, the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) 'Boe Declaration on Regional Security' and its Action Plan identified climate change as the region's most significant security threat.[17] At national level, several countries are embedding climate, peace and security considerations into their national security, prevention, climate and development strategies. Others are advancing dedicated policies and plans to respond proactively to emerging risks, such as in the Liptako-Gourma region.[18] The growing demand from fragile and conflict-affected contexts reflects needs on the ground and underscores the increased recognition of CPS as a peacebuilding entry point. The conversation is moving from seeing climate change purely as a risk to peace to viewing it as an opportunity to advance both climate and peace objectives.

[9] See: UN Security Council. (2025). *Thematic issues: Climate, Peace and Security*.

[10] See: United Nations. (2025). *Climate Security Mechanism*. (accessed November 2025).

[11] United Nations. (2022). *COP27 Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace Initiative*.

[12] United Nations. (2023). *COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery And Peace*.

[13] United Nations. (2024). *COP29 Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery*.

[14] African Union. (2025). *African Leaders' Addis Ababa Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action*.

[15] adelphi & African Union. (2024).*Weathering Risk Builds Evidence Base for a Common African Position on Climate, Peace and Security. Climate Diplomacy*.

[16] UNDP. (2023). *Bamako Declaration: Sahel Climate, Peace and security Forum*.

[17] Pacific Islands Forum. (2018). *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.

[18] UNDP. (2025). *Practical solutions at the intersection of climate action, peace and security in the Liptako-Gourma region*.

2. Rationale, objectives and target audience

In response to the complex and interlinked challenges, many actors are now contributing to CPS action in fragile, conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable contexts. Recent efforts have focused on integrating climate change considerations into conflict analysis tools used for programming as well as on portfolio evaluations funded by either climate or peacebuilding financing.

Yet existing analysis and tools rarely bridge the divide between climate and peacebuilding financing. With increased funding constraints, there is a greater need for coherent, risk-informed and scalable approaches across climate and peace financing as well as a more structured and consolidated body of guidance to support integrated programming at scale.

As the largest implementer of climate and peacebuilding financing portfolios in the UN system and a core member of the CSM, UNDP's portfolios, implemented together with key partners in peacebuilding and climate fields, offer a unique perspective into future CPS practice and the potential of blended approaches. Between 2023 and 2025, UNDP supported more than 56 countries through CPS initiatives across diverse contexts, including the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, Central Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa and parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. These initiatives have focused on:

- Climate-proofing conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Ensuring climate change adaptation and mitigation not only do not harm, but contribute to peace; and
- Advancing integrated approaches to climate action and sustaining peace.

To consolidate learning across different financing streams, UNDP launched this thematic review to identify emerging good practices and generate practical recommendations for future CPS programming. Building on recent work, including the 'Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding' (2023)[19] by PBF, the two evaluations of 'Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations' (2020 and 2024)[20] by Independent Evaluations Office as well as 'Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace' (2021)[21] by UNDP and CSM, the review draws on a sample of 15 projects from UNDP's peacebuilding and climate portfolios. These include initiatives funded by the PBF, GEF, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), bilateral partners as well as the CSM and UNDP.

Projects were selected based on the following criteria:

- An explicit focus on climate, peace and security interlinkages, with activities addressing climate-related security risks and generating climate and peace co-benefits;
- Geographic diversity and contextual variation to reflect a range of risk profiles and operational settings; and
- Sufficient maturity to ensure the availability of operational learning and insights.

The thematic review and the resulting programming guidance note aims to support the development of cross-sectoral, integrated CPS interventions and the integration of CPS considerations into both new and ongoing climate, peacebuilding and conflict prevention programming.

The primary audience includes actors involved in CPS programme design and implementation, particularly UNDP country and regional offices, project developers, practitioners and implementing partners from international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations. The review also serves a broader set of stakeholders interested in advancing CPS programming, including researchers and development partners. Finally, it provides policy- and decision-makers with insights from programme implementation that can inform strategic planning and contribute to more effective policy responses.

[19] UN PBF. (2023). *Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding*.

[20] GEF. (2024). *Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations*.

[21] UNDP. (2021). *Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace. Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts*.

3. Navigating this publication

This report is structured in three complementary parts:

This introduction provides orientation to the report by describing the background and rationale, its intended audience, overall approach and selection criteria as well as key terms and concepts;

Part I presents the key findings of the thematic review. This analytical section examines the main components of reviewed projects, including thematic priorities, types of actions to address identified risks, approaches to stakeholder engagement and key lessons for future programming; and

Part II draws on the analysis in Part I to offer programming guidance for future climate, peace and security initiatives. It covers considerations for risk assessments and thematic prioritization, implementation modalities and monitoring and evaluation.

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Approach and limitations

This thematic review and programming guidance note is based on semi-structured interviews with UNDP project focal points, regional leads and thematic experts, complemented by an extensive desk review of project documents, evaluations, relevant reports, assessments and policy materials. Two workshops supported the process: one with UNDP project teams to collect and validate findings and gather additional insights and another with external stakeholders, including representatives from governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and think-thanks. A peer review process and a final validation webinar were undertaken to ensure accuracy and relevance. In total, over 250 experts and practitioners contributed to the development and review of the thematic review and accompanying guidance.

This review builds on, but goes beyond, existing evaluations and assessments. It takes the form of a meta-analysis, drawing on available project documentation, evaluations, stakeholder interviews and consultations. Part II additionally draws on key UNDP corporate programming resources. Informed by these materials, the guidance highlights specific considerations related to CPS programming that distinguish it from other thematic areas, illustrated through field-based examples.

Several limitations were identified during the review process. In some cases, projects were still under implementation, limiting the availability of evidence on long-term outcomes and impact. In other instances, projects operated in dynamic or volatile security contexts, which may have affected implementation trajectories and created deviations from initial project designs.

Additionally, the time span between data collection and final publication may mean that changes in project implementation or contextual dynamics have emerged since the initial review. To mitigate these risks, an extensive peer review process was undertaken to ensure that findings remain as current, accurate and reflective of the ground realities as possible.

Thematic review of UNDP climate, peace and security projects

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FIGURE 1

Global overview of reviewed projects

1 Sustainable Amazon for peace
Geographic focus:
Colombia
Implementation period:
2017–2024*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
GEF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 9,000,000

2 Enhanced climate resilience in the Trois-Rivières region of Haiti through integrated watershed management
Geographic focus:
Haiti
Implementation period:
2024–2032*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
GCF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 31,290,561

3 Climate, security and sustainable management of natural resources in the central regions of Mali for peacebuilding
Geographic focus:
Mali
Implementation period:
2022–2028*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
GEF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 28,804,454

4 North-West climate-peace hubs: A climate security approach to conflict prevention
Geographic focus:
Nigeria
Implementation period:
2022–2025*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
Norway
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 5,729,794

5 Supporting sustainable peace in Blue Nile state through gender-responsive natural resource governance, inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms and climate-resilient livelihoods
Geographic focus:
Sudan
Implementation period:
2021–2023*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
PBF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 3,982,124

6 Addressing climate-related security risks to reduce community vulnerability
Geographic focus:
Sudan
Implementation period:
2022–*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
CSM
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 500,000

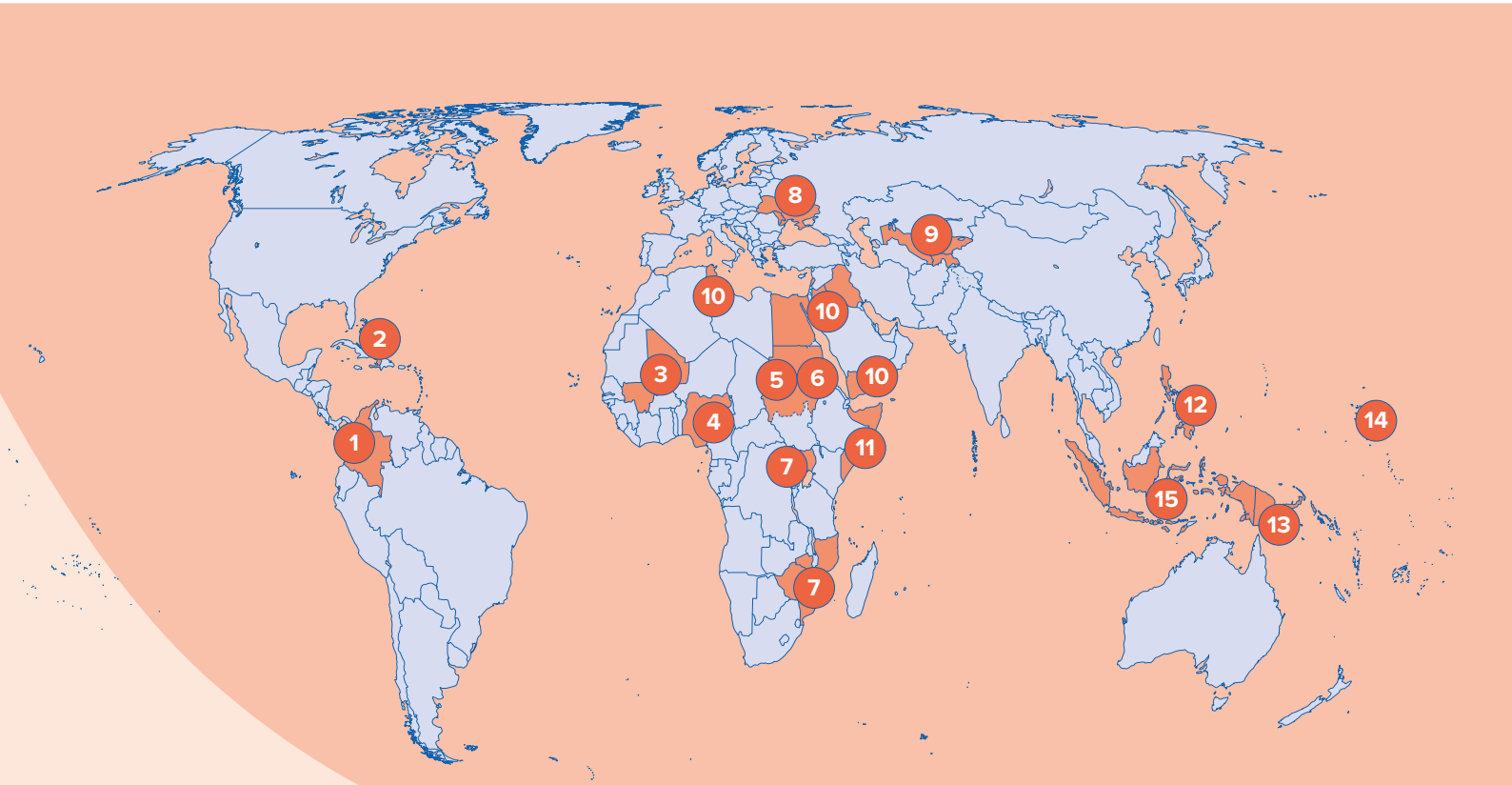
7 Strengthening the capacity of local peacebuilding networks to address climate-related security risks
Geographic focus:
Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe
Implementation period:
2021–2023*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
UNDP
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ <500,000

8 Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin
Geographic focus:
Dniester River Basin (Moldova, Ukraine)
Implementation period:
2017–2020*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
GEF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 1,950,000

9 Climate change and resilience in Central Asia
Geographic focus:
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Implementation period:
2021–2024*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
EU
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 3,217,062

10 The SDG-Climate Facility: climate action for human security
Geographic focus:
The Arab Region (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia, Yemen)
Implementation period:
2019–2022*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
SIDA
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 7,194,856

11 Climate-security pilot project
Geographic focus:
Somalia
Implementation period:
2020–2022*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
CSM
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 500,000



12 Addressing climate-related security risks in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Geographic focus:
Philippines
Implementation period:
2022–2024*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
CSM
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 500,000

13 Preventing climate-induced conflicts through empowered women leadership

Geographic focus:
Papua New Guinea
Implementation period:
2021–2024*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
PBF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 1,500,000

14 Climate security in the Pacific

Geographic focus:
Pacific Region and Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu
Implementation period:
2020–2023*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
PBF
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ 3,200,000

15 Evidence-based assessment: climate security in Indonesia

Geographic focus:
Indonesia
Implementation period:
2022–2024*
Funding source (excl. Co-financing):
UNDP
Total budget (incl. co-financing):
US$ <500,000

** As per analysed project documents at the time of the review.*

1. Overview of the reviewed projects

As illustrated by figure 1, this review examines 15 UNDP projects implemented in 28 countries across four regions. The selected sample reflects UNDP's growing CPS practice, spanning prevention, adaptation and resilience-building in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The projects address a wide range of climate-related security risks, often in combination and use varied intervention modalities. Gender equality and social inclusion are embedded across the reviewed portfolio, with several initiatives specifically addressing the intersection of gender and CPS.

The considered projects are financed through a mix of vertical climate funds, such as GEF and GCF and peacebuilding finance from PBF, bilateral partners including Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), European Union (EU), Norway as well as UNDP core resources and catalytic grants from the CSM. One project in Colombia included government co-financing. The total value of the portfolio analysed is US$97.5 million (including co-financing).

The projects operate at different scales. Some targeted specific subnational regions, such as the central region of Mali, the Trois- Rivières region of Haiti, North-West Nigeria, Blue Nile State in Sudan and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in the Philippines. Two projects involve multiple countries, such as the initiative covering Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Three projects have explicit cross-border components, including in the Central Asia, the Pacific SIDS and cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine in the Dniester River Basin.

Across the 15 projects reviewed, UNDP collaborated with a diverse network of partners, including government institutions, regional organizations, UN entities, NGOs and community-based actors, among others. Joint implementation with other UN entities was a common feature, with four projects (Arab States, the Pacific, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Sudan) delivered as joint programmes, combining expertise and resources. Nine projects were implemented through local or community-based organizations, ensuring strong contextual grounding and local engagement. Government engagement was central across all projects.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2. Main thematic climate, peace and security priorities

The projects identified thematic priorities through a combination of *ad hoc* assessments, existing climate and vulnerability assessments, conflict and hotspot analyses, information platforms and stakeholder consultations. For example, the project in Haiti was informed by a study of climate-related security risks in the country conducted by UNEP and adelphi and complemented by an initial conflict analysis during the design stage. Several projects, like Somalia, applied components of the CSM Climate, Peace and Security Toolbox.[22] Community validation consistently ensured that local perspectives complemented technical assessments and prevented a top-down approach.

The main CPS thematic priorities identified reflect how climate-related security risks were perceived and conceptualized in each context. Although categorizing these risks helps structure the analysis, the projects consistently demonstrated that risks are interconnected, frequently overlapping and mutually reinforcing, compounding vulnerabilities or creating new tensions.

Natural resources and livelihoods

Climate impacts on natural resources and related livelihoods emerged as the most common source of insecurity. All 15 projects addressed natural resource concerns in some capacity with varying emphasis and sub-themes. Experts highlighted how climate change reduces the availability and accessibility of resources such as water, land, forests, agricultural assets, fisheries as well as mineral resources and thus triggers resource distribution competition among countries, livelihoods groups or within specific geographical areas. The risks were often heightened where communities experienced dependence on a single resource (e.g., a specific river controlled by an upstream country).

Land: A total of nine projects identified land related issues as a key area of focus. Of those, seven projects (Blue Nile, Central Asia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan) focused on land degradation and rehabilitation while four (Philippines, Nigeria, Mali, Colombia) examined agricultural land use, either in the context of zoning and farmer-herder conflict or through adaptive farming and climate-smart practices. In three projects, land access disputes emerged as a significant driver of fragility, often linked to governance challenges. One case considered potential land loss from sea-level rise, particularly for low-lying atolls. Across contexts, unresolved land pressures were consistently associated with heightened tension and fragility.

Water: Water emerged as one of the most prominent themes across the analysed portfolio, with 12 of the 15 projects addressing water-related peace and security risks. Scarcity was the most common entry point, as nine projects linked droughts, changing rainfall and river variability to fragility. In Nigeria, the shrinking Kalmalu Lake forced herders into farmlands, sparking clashes with farmers, while in Indonesia, conflicts had higher incidence in drought-affected zones. Many projects highlighted how weak or inequitable governance of water infrastructure intensified grievances and intergroup tensions, including in Somalia, PNG, Sudan, the Philippines and in the Arab States. All in all, seven projects documented water-related disputes, ranging from farmer-herder violence to transboundary tensions in Central Asia and Sudan. Projects also drew attention to climate-driven extremes such as floods, typhoons and glacial lake outburst floods. Yet water was not only a source of fragility: five projects demonstrated its potential as entry point for cooperation, with examples from Somalia, the Arab States, Sudan, Central Asia and Ukraine-Moldova showing how governance platforms and mediation can promote dialogue, trust-building and cross-border collaboration.

[22] See Box 9 for further details on the CSM toolbox and its application in project design.

Forests and ecosystems: A total of five projects explicitly addressed links between ecological degradation, livelihoods and conflict dynamics. In Colombia, deforestation and extractive pressures were tied to land governance gaps, ecological zoning and illegal activities such as logging and mining, particularly in post-conflict settings. In the Pacific, ecosystem fragility was highlighted in the context of sea-level rise and habitat loss, where damage to coastal ecosystems amplified community vulnerability. In Haiti, watershed degradation and biodiversity loss were linked to increased flood risk. The project in Central Asia emphasized the pressures on transboundary ecosystems, where environmental degradation intensified cross-border tensions.

Livelihood and economy-related pressures: All projects recognized the impacts of climate change on livelihoods, especially in agriculture, fisheries, livestock production and natural resource-dependent sectors. Twelve of the sampled projects directly addressed these linkages through income generation, climate-smart agriculture, vocational training and resilience support. In North-West Nigeria, for example, the loss of agricultural livelihoods due to climate variability has contributed to a rise in banditry as an alternative source of income. In Zimbabwe, the climate-induced loss of mopane worms, an important source of income, has led to conflicts between worm harvesters and local communities. In the Pacific, the potential livelihood and revenues loss deriving from shifting fish migration patterns, particularly of tuna stocks driven by ocean acidification and rising sea temperatures, can create risks for regional stability. Beyond local livelihoods, climate-related disruptions, such as sea-level rise, flooding and extreme weather events, are also affecting industries like tourism, manufacturing and supply chains, damaging infrastructures and straining public resources.

BOX 1

Climate change, transboundary water resources and instability in Central Asia

The Fergana Valley, shared by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, is a region of high agricultural significance and socio-economic interdependence. Climate change is placing increasing pressure on access to shared natural resources that are critical for electricity generation and food production across the region, with implications for regional stability, agrarian and socio-economic development. Most of the region's water originates in upstream Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and flows downstream to Uzbekistan through the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins, two of Central Asia's most vital and climate-sensitive transboundary water systems.

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Changing precipitation patterns, more frequent droughts and rapid glacier melt are intensifying water stress in these basins, reinforcing the urgency of sustained regional dialogue and collaboration on transboundary water resource management. These dynamics are further complicated by the valley's Soviet-era legacy and the region's diverse cross-border and multi-ethnic dynamics, highlighting the importance of inclusive water governance, climate-resilient solutions and regional visions that foster both sustainable development and long-term peace and social cohesion.

Farmer-herder dynamics

Three projects in the review made direct reference to farmer-herder tensions, all in contexts where resource insecurity was already a central concern.

In Sudan, Mali and Nigeria, competition over water and land brought pastoralist groups into conflict with agricultural communities, with climate variability and livelihood fragility compounding these pressures.

BOX 2

Climate change and farmer-herder conflicts in Mali

In Mali, relationships between farmers and herders, traditionally shaped by cooperation, exchange and negotiated migration routes, have become increasingly strained due to a convergence of environmental, social and political factors. Climate change has intensified environmental stress, with prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and rising temperatures, degrading pastures and reducing water availability. These dynamics force herders to encroach on farming areas in search of resources, disrupting established transhumance patterns.

Land-use changes have compounded these dynamics. The expansion of farmland and privatization of communal lands have further restricted grazing areas and pastoral mobility.

In parts of the Mopti Region, unsustainable farming and grazing practices continue to erode vegetative cover, accelerate soil erosion and deplete soil fertility.

Population growth, combined with the erosion of customary conflict-resolution mechanisms, has weakened the capacity of communities to peacefully manage disputes. Sedentary farming communities, such as the Bambara and Dogon, have increasingly clashed with Fulani herders over resource access. Armed groups and violent extremist organizations have exploited these grievances, fueling violence, targeting vulnerable groups and reinforcing cycles of insecurity.

Climate-related mobility

The reviewed projects include nine projects that explicitly looked at how climate change affects people's movement, including displacement, migration, relocation or seasonal movements often linking them to climate-induced stress, conflict or disaster risk. Among these, six projects (PNG, Somalia, the Pacific, Mali, Sudan and Colombia) highlighted displacement driven by drought-related water scarcity, floods and coastal hazards that undermined livelihoods and forced people to move. In Somalia and the Pacific, disasters and sea-level rise created mobility pressures. Additionally, four projects mentioned voluntary migration, both within countries and cross-border. These population movements created new demands on services, strained resource distribution and affected governance and social fabric. In Haiti, deteriorating security situation in the urban centers drove migration to inland areas such as the Trois-Rivieres region, increasing pressure on local resources. In PNG, drought-induced disruption of water sources pushed communities to cross sensitive tribal boundaries, increasing localized conflicts.

Relocation, whether forced or planned, in response to environmental pressures was addressed in two projects, while three initiatives (Sudan, Mali and Nigeria) considered seasonal or adaptive mobility as a resilience strategy, highlighting the potential of mobility as coping mechanism in specific contexts by allowing communities to adapt to environmental variability, seek safer areas or diversify livelihoods.

Threats to habitability, identity and social fabric

Within the projects, four projects had reference to the ways climate impacts affect identity, social cohesion and the cultural and existential foundations of communities. In Colombia, interventions linked indigenous identity to post-conflict reintegration, illustrating how cultural belonging shapes pathways out of violence. In Somalia, projects examined how resource governance interacts with clan identities and dynamics, influencing both cooperation and conflict. In the Philippines, programming highlighted the interplay between political rivalries, the role of women and youth and the reintegration of ex-combatants. In the Pacific, climate change was directly connected to the loss of cultural heritage and identity, as sea-level rise and its consequences threaten the continuity of entire communities.

While only the Pacific project explicitly addressed habitability, the wider reviewed portfolio illustrated how mobility, displacement and resource governance issues can all erode the social fabric and cultural identity of affected populations. These cases underscore that beyond economic and physical losses, climate impacts are reshaping collective identities, governance relationships and visions of the future, which are dimensions that are harder to quantify but fundamental to resilience in fragile settings.

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BOX 3

Climate-induced challenges to governance in the Pacific

The potential impacts of sea level rise on low-lying Pacific atoll countries such as Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu create profound uncertainties for governance, security and sustainable development. Rising sea levels threaten the habitability of atolls and raise complex questions about the continuity of jurisdiction, sovereign rights and the protection of affected populations.

Recognizing these risks, Pacific Island countries have articulated clear and forward-looking positions on these issues. They affirm the preservation of their maritime zone in the face of climate impacts to land territory and underscore the enduring continuity of their statehood and sovereignty. At the same time, they emphasize the importance of safeguarding the dignity, identity and well-being of their populations, including in scenarios of severe environmental disruption or displacement.

These commitments reflect a broader regional emphasis on protecting cultural heritage, maintaining legal and political continuity as well as ensuring that governance arrangements remain robust and people-centred despite accelerating climate and environmental pressures.

Sources: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. (2021). *Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change–Related Sea-Level Rise.*
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. (2023). *2023 Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change–Related Sea-Level Rise*.


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Violent extremism, banditry and organized crimes

The analysis reveals that climate change contributes to risks of violent extremism by exacerbating environmental fragility, undermining local livelihoods and weakening governance structures. While only one project explicitly referenced prevention of violent extremism as part of its thematic focus, at least four projects highlighted how climate-induced factors interact with conflict dynamics, creating openings for armed or illicit actors. In northern Nigeria, for example, declining agricultural productivity and pastoral income, driven by desertification and erratic rainfall, has increased economic pressures and eroded traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. These conditions have enabled armed groups and bandit networks to expand their influence by offering alternative sources of livelihood, protection, fiscal incentives and identity to disenfranchised youth. Despite government efforts and initiatives, challenges such as corruption and community mistrust hinder effective responses, risking further violence and erosion of state authority. Additional two projects further linked resource exploitation, such as illegal mining and logging, to illicit economies that armed actors and, in some cases, extremist networks use to finance operations, recruit followers and consolidate territorial control.

Gender, climate, peace and security

Gender considerations featured prominently across the review. A total of seven projects included targeted interventions to strengthen women's leadership, participation and resilience, or to address protection risks, while the remaining projects adopted a gender mainstreaming approach. In addition, three projects explicitly linked their work to the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Across contexts, climate change exacerbated existing gender inequalities, increasing the burdens on women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, while also exposing them to heightened risks of violence, exclusion


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from decision-making and loss of livelihoods. Structural barriers limit both women's and men's ability to participate in, influence and benefit from adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction efforts.

In Nigeria, the insecurity around water points created specific risks of gender-based violence (GBV), as mostly women are responsible for collecting water. While displacement alone does not inherently lead to GBV, the conditions surrounding climate-related displacement can significantly heighten protection risks. The project in the Arab States found that women displaced by floods, droughts or storms often face weakened protection mechanisms, particularly in temporary shelters where lack of privacy, adequate lighting and sanitation increase vulnerability to harassment, exploitation and GBV. In Lebanon, Syrian refugee women, many without legal residency, face disproportionate risks. In 2022, they accounted for 74 percent of registered women GBV survivors.

Acknowledging women's agency, resilience and peacebuilding role, several projects focused on strengthening women's leadership in climate action, natural resource governance and peacebuilding. In Sudan's Blue Nile State, the project promoted inclusive natural resources governance by ensuring the full and equal representation of women, enabling women's groups to drive GBV prevention, natural resource management and women's economic empowerment. In PNG, the project strengthened women's capacities to lead community-based resilience and conflict resolution initiatives, recognising the central role of women's networks in mediating climate-related local disputes over natural resources.

Youth, climate, peace and security

Youth featured prominently across the reviewed projects, both as groups affected by the combined pressures of climate impacts and conflict and as critical actors in building resilience, fostering social cohesion and driving innovative solutions. Total of seven projects explicitly engaged young people in their thematic focus, implementation strategies or as target groups (Nigeria, Mozambique-Uganda-Zimbabwe, Somalia, the Pacific, the Philippines, PNG and Sudan).

Climate change exacerbates the structural challenges many youths already face, including unemployment, exclusion from decision-making and migration pressures. The project in the Philippines explicitly linked with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, while in Nigeria youth disenfranchisement was identified as both a driver of instability and an entry point for engagement through livelihood support and participation in dialogue processes.

Across several initiatives youth leadership was central in community-based adaptation, mediation and livelihoods restoration. In Somalia, for example, the project recognized the role of youths in climate-related early warning and resilience-building and worked to enhance their capacities to contribute to climate risk reduction, prevention and community stabilization in areas severely affected by environmental and security pressures.

Mitigation and energy transition

While most of the projects focused on climate adaptation and resilience-building, three initiatives also incorporated mitigation and energy transition dimensions. These projects emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable, low-carbon livelihoods and reducing environmental degradation while facilitating equitable access to energy resources as factors that support long-term stability and peace.

The project in the Arab States, for example, supported solar energy deployment in rural areas, including in Palestine and Yemen, to reduce energy poverty while promoting livelihoods and job opportunities. In Central Asia, the project included renewable energy access and ecosystem restoration as part of broader strategies to reduce local tensions and prevent conflict.

The integration of these interventions reflects a growing recognition within CPS programming of the potential for renewable energy to support peacebuilding and resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings, while underscoring the need to carefully manage the political, social and economic risks associated with such transitions.

BOX 4

Climate change mitigation and security risks: Insights from IPCC AR6

In addition to risks to peace and security associated with climate change impacts, mitigation efforts can also contribute to tensions and compound risks in fragile settings. For example, in Palestine, under the 'SDG-Climate Facility' -project, high energy costs were identified as risks for social stability.

The IPCC, in its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), highlights multiple ways in which climate change mitigation efforts and the low-carbon transition can intersect with risks to peace and security:

Low-carbon transition (or lack thereof) as source of tensions and conflict. Political struggles often accompany major societal transitions, including those associated with shifting away from fossil fuels. Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can deepen inequalities if costs and benefits are unevenly distributed. Cases of social unrest linked to the removal of fossil fuel subsidies or land-use changes associated with the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation programme, beyond the reviewed projects, illustrate these risks.

Unsuccessful transition as a source of tensions and conflict. Governments' failure to effectively address climate change can fuel public discontent and increase likelihood of violent outcomes.

Conflicts related to mining of critical minerals. Demand for strategic minerals, such as cobalt, copper and lithium that are essential to low-carbon technologies, is rising sharply. Mining of these minerals has been linked to violence and conflict in several regions and risks are likely to intensify in fragile and conflict-affected contexts with weak governance and armed group activity.

Hydropower as a source of conflict. Competition for hydropower across borders, as well as competing uses of water in multi-purpose reservoirs, can ignite conflicts, particularly where governance frameworks for shared water resources are weak or contested.

Source: Bashmakov, I.A., L.J. Nilsson, A. Acquaye, C. Bataille, J.M. Cullen, S. de la Rue du Can, M. Fischedick, Y. Geng, K. Tanaka, 2022: Industry. In IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Transboundary dimensions of climate-related security risks

Climate impacts on shared ecosystems, such as river basins, pastoral corridors and marine resources, can take on distinct dynamics when they span borders. Rather than creating new risks, these transboundary dynamics often amplify pressures already present within countries by adding cross-border competition, jurisdictional complexity and the need for coordination among multiple sovereign actors. Total of five projects (Central Asia, Arab States, Mozambique-Uganda-Zimbabwe, Pacific and Ukraine-Moldova) addressed these dimensions. A key finding is the growing emphasis on strengthening regional cooperation and inclusive governance mechanisms to manage these multi-sovereign challenges. This reflects a broader recognition that transboundary climate stress not only exacerbates domestic fragility but also requires different tools, agreements and institutional arrangements than those used for national interventions.

3. Actions and project interventions

To address the thematic climate-related security priorities outlined above, the projects applied a diverse set of actions, often combining peacebuilding and conflict prevention tools, such as mediation and confidence-building with climate action measures, such as climate-resilient agriculture or renewable energy. The distinctive feature of these integrated approaches is their ability to generate peace and climate co-benefits.

The section below highlights illustrative examples that reflect common patterns and innovative practices observed in the review.

BOX 5

Developing guidance for locally-led assessments of climate-related security risks in Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe

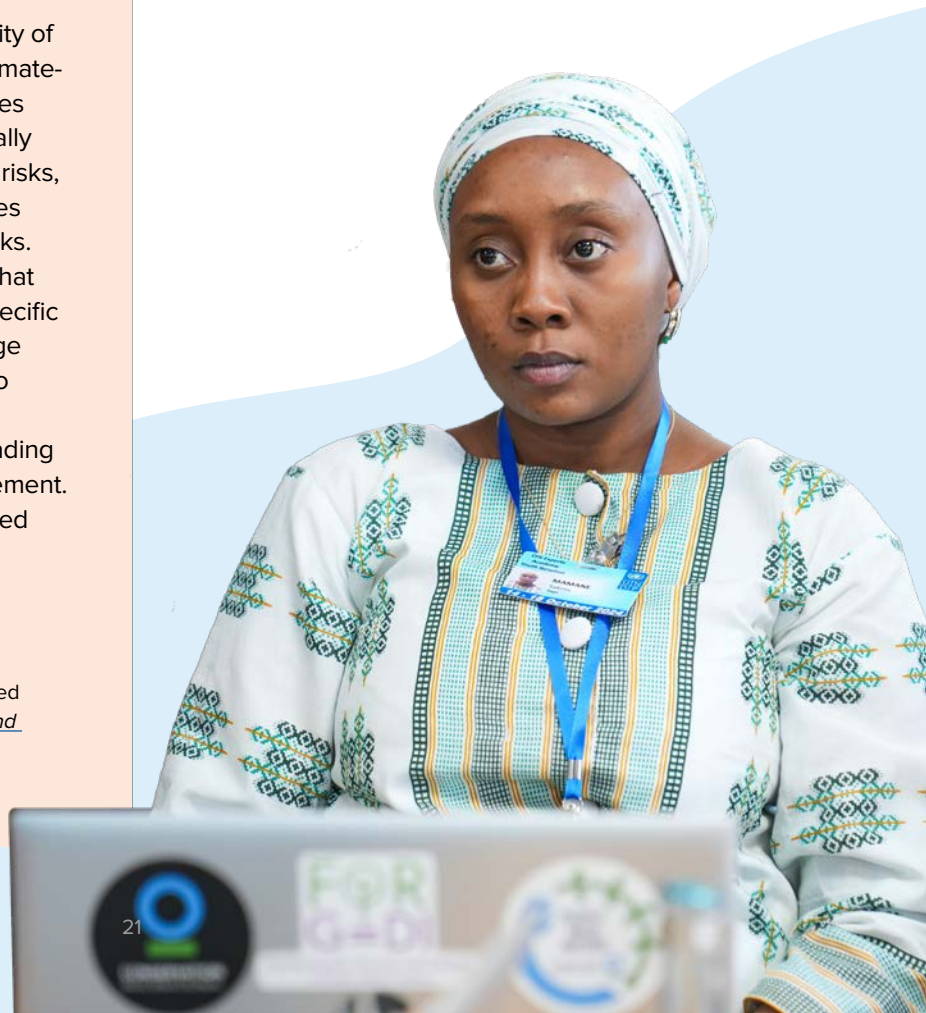
Under the project 'Strengthening the capacity of local peacebuilding networks to address climate-related security risks', one of the key activities focused on co-developing guidance for locally led assessments of climate-related security risks, helping local peacebuilders and communities develop shared understandings of those risks. The project was grounded on the premise that climate-related security risks are context-specific and that the first-hand community knowledge is essential for identifying and responding to them. Global methodologies and analytical frameworks can overlook local nuances, leading to interventions that can be difficult to implement. To support these efforts, the project produced a practical, step-by-step guidance note for conducting community-led climate-security risk assessments.

Source: Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). (2023) *Localising Climate, Peace and Security – A Practical Step-by-Step Guidance Note*.

Climate, peace and security analysis and assessments

The review highlights that contextual analysis is foundational to effective CPS programming. Successful projects conducted an in-depth analysis to understand how climate impacts and conflict dynamics intersect in specific contexts and how risks evolve over time. These analytical efforts were used to identify, validate and prioritize risks and were informed by consultations with local communities (e.g. workshops, focus groups, interviews) as well as climate and violence or conflict datasets and other assessments.

Approaches varied across the projects. In some cases, analysis informed the project design, in others, it was carried out during implementation. Some projects undertook dedicated CPS risk assessments, while others integrated CPS considerations into broader conflict, vulnerability or environmental assessments. In several contexts, including in PNG, projects planned dedicated analysis of links between gender and CPS.



Early warning, predictive and hotspot analysis

Of the reviewed projects, six incorporated elements of early warning, predictive analysis and strategic foresight to better anticipate and respond to climate-related security risks. Early warning systems and climate information were deployed in areas with high conflict risk, including transboundary contexts, helping not only to prevent and reduce risks but also to create new spaces for cooperation. Shared access to forecasts and risk data encouraged engagement among different actors, especially at the local level, by enabling communities, authorities and regional actors to plan jointly and establish mechanisms for preparedness and resource management. In Nigeria, for instance, the project supported the development of a subnational early warning system that aimed to detect signs of tension linked to climate-induced livelihood loss, enabling preventive engagement by local authorities and community leaders. Tools like CPS dashboards combined local climate and socio-economic data to help anticipate resource shortages, land tensions or displacement.

In particular, two projects applied hotspot analysis to identify areas where climate impacts could intensify specific local tensions.[23] This approach combined participatory assessments with geospatial analysis, socio-economic, peace and security information and climate vulnerability indicators. For example, in Central Asia, this methodology was used to identify transboundary areas most exposed to climate impacts and most prone to conflicts.

Targeted support to regional entities

Across the reviewed projects, a critical area of action was the provision of targeted support to regional organizations to strengthen their capacity to assess and address climate-related security risks. Strategies included strengthening regional institutions, promoting joint resource management, supporting information sharing and building trust across borders to prevent climate impacts from becoming catalysts for broader instability. Recognizing the strategic role of regional entity, targeted support included the provision of *ad hoc* advisory services, policy support and enhancing early warning and conflict prevention capacities, among others. For example, in the Pacific, the project worked closely with the PIF to assess risks, embed climate-security risks into regional policy discussions, advance advocacy on the international stage and support the development of regional knowledge products through the secondment of a dedicated resource employed to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). In Central Asia, the project engaged with regional bodies to foster cross-border dialogue and cooperation around shared water resources and climate resilience.

Policy support

Nearly all the projects supported regional, national or local authorities in developing or strengthening policies and plans that integrate CPS dimensions. For instance, the regional project in the Arab States featured the development of roadmaps to address the country-specific climate-related security risks. In BARMM in the Philippines, the project supported inclusion of relevant considerations in the development of the 'Bangsamoro Plan of Action on Community Resilience'. In PNG, the project included support to community peace and development plans, which incorporated climate-related security risks.

Experts also highlighted efforts to integrate CPS considerations into national policies, including in NDC and NAP processes and sectoral strategies. In Nigeria, for example, support to develop state-level climate change policies and action plans laid the foundation for addressing interconnected climate and security risks in alignment with national NDC and NAP commitments.

Community-level support

All the projects in the review included community level interventions, addressing climate-related security risks in priority areas. These activities ranged from livelihood diversification and climate-

[23] The term 'hotspot' generally denotes a methodology for pinpointing specific locations at heightened risk, in order to prioritize interventions and allocate resources preventatively, including in relation to mobility (particularly displacement), local tensions and contested natural resources, among others. (UNDP. (2024). *Mapping climate mobility hotspot risks: An approach for development organizations to assess risks and responses to climate mobility*.

resilient agriculture to conflict-sensitive adaptation and community-based resilience building. In Haiti, for example, the project featured adaptation interventions, such as climate-smart agriculture and improved irrigation infrastructure, formulated to reduce frictions among returnees, displaced populations and host communities over access to land and water, with community dialogues and inclusive planning processes embedded to ensure equitable benefit sharing and avoid reinforcing existing divisions.

Several initiatives also promoted ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, recognizing their potential to strengthen environmental resilience while building trust and collaboration among groups. For instance, in PNG, reforestation and watershed protection activities led by women's groups contributed both to environmental restoration and local peacebuilding. Environmental cooperation at a community level was used as effective measure to build confidence between stakeholders on different sides of the conflict. In Sudan's Blue Nile State, inclusive natural resource management platforms were supported to help mediate land and water disputes between farmers and pastoralists.

Capacity-building

Capacity-building was a core component of 10 of the 15 analysed projects. Given the breadth of CPS themes, capacity development covered a wide range of areas including mediation and conflict resolution, governance, natural resources management and transboundary resilience, such as in the case of the project in Central Asia. In Mali, project activities included efforts to strengthen institutional capacities to combat land degradation. In Jordan, a pilot project worked with 103 identified companies working in the water sector to provide mentorship and training to help address water-related tensions.

Multi-disciplinary cooperation platforms

Multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary platforms that bring together environmental and peacebuilding expertise proved effective in eight of the reviewed projects. These platforms helped bridge information gaps, support policy

BOX 6

Examples of community-level interventions

In the **Pacific**, the project involved setting up food cubes in local communities to respond to food security concerns identified as a priority by communities from low-lying atoll nations, affected by sea level rise and other climate impacts.

In **Yemen**, farmers in 16 pilot farms were trained in climate-resilient coffee production as an alternative to qat, a drug made of a local flowering plant cultivation, supporting sustainable livelihoods while reducing reliance on a crop linked to environmental degradation and social harm.

In **Mali**, rehabilitation of 21,000 hectares of rangelands helped maintain a productive natural resource system, reducing risks of conflicts over land and water, particularly between farming and herding communities.

The project in **Yemen** facilitated the installation of a waste-to-energy gasification plant in the southern region of Lahj. The plant provided jobs, income and clean energy, addressing economic needs and creating tangible peace dividends in a conflict-affected and highly fragile area of the country.

Along the **Dniester River** in Eastern Europe, joint community activities, such as biodiversity conservation, water sampling and information exchange, helped foster trust and dialogue, with the aim of paving the way for broader collaboration on shared environmental and development challenges, including flood management and river clean-up.

development, facilitate dialogue and conflict resolution and enable institutions and communities to identify and address specific risks. In some contexts, projects leveraged existing institutional mechanisms. For example, the project in Ukraine-Moldova, built on the work by the Dniester Commission, which convenes representatives from the riparian countries of the Dniester River Basin to promote equitable access to the river and maintain cooperation. In other cases, such as the establishment of Climate-Peace Hubs in Nigeria, the creation of new, dedicated platforms formed a core part of the project intervention.

TABLE 1

Summary of project thematic priorities and examples of corresponding actions

Natural resources & livelihoods	Climate-smart agriculture solutions in post-conflict reconstruction Irrigation and communal watershed management Joint natural resource management
Farmer-herder dynamics	Mediation support Inclusive land-use planning Rehabilitation of rangelands to reduce tensions
Climate-related mobility	Community dialogues between hosts and communities on the move Climate-conflict analysis and mobility monitoring Livelihood support for displaced groups
Threats to habitability & identity	Exclusive Economic Zone advocacy Targeted assessments Community resilience planning to address displacement risks
Violent extremism & organized crime	Targeted livelihood diversification to reduce recruitment risks Early warning and hotspot identification Conflict-sensitive adaptation
Gender & CPS	Women-led governance platforms GBV prevention at water collection points Enhancing mediation and leadership capacities in climate-conflict vulnerable communities
Youth & CPS	Youth-led early warning systems Capacity building Community nature-based solutions
Mitigation & energy transition	Renewable energy and waste-to-energy plants in fragile contexts Job creation in the energy sector in targeted vulnerable locations Joint management of cross-border resources for energy production
Transboundary climate risks	Regional dialogues on water management Provision of advisory support to regional institutions Multi-stakeholder cross-border cooperation platforms

4. Stakeholder engagement and institutional coordination

Each of the projects involved a wide range of stakeholders and used diverse modalities for engaging them. Institutional coordination among government actors was a consistent priority, particularly in projects that required bringing together ministries and agencies responsible for climate, environment, security and peacebuilding.

In nine projects, regional organizations were mentioned as part of engaged stakeholders, providing platforms for regional dialogue and policy support. In two cases (Pacific and the Arab States), regional organizations were direct counterparts and central to project design, with dedicated secondees or institutional arrangements in place.

Security institutions also played an important role in several contexts. In Nigeria, the Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience, linked to the Office of the National Security Adviser, was a key partner, while representatives from the police, internal affairs and local security actors participated in consultations. By contrast, security and defence ministries were formally engaged in only one project (Somalia).

Civil society and NGOs were essential implementing partners. They enabled connections across lines in conflict-affected areas, facilitated community access and served as conduits for information flows. In particular, five projects explicitly involved women's and youth groups, such as in the Philippines, PNG, Nigeria, Sudan and the Pacific. Just one project (Indonesia) worked with national research institutions, the 'Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional - National Research and Innovation Agency', underlining the value of local expertise for assessments and strengthen the evidence base. Only one project mentioned private sector engagement (Arab States).

Across the reviewed projects, community engagement was consistently a priority. Communities, usually represented by local representatives and leaders, were crucial for assessing local risks, understanding day-to-day impacts and shaping project interventions. In some projects, such as in Somalia and PNG, the interventions included community-driven plans, including gender and climate-responsive community peace and development plans. Existing community governance systems were leveraged as platforms for conflict training and mediation efforts.

BOX 7

Results through integrated programming in Jordan

The Jordan pilot, implemented through the SDG-Climate Facility project demonstrated the value of interministerial cooperation to address youth unemployment, displacement and water scarcity. The collaboration enabled integrated interventions combining mentorship, capacity development and water technology-related community initiatives. The resulting reduction of reported water-related tensions, enhanced agricultural productivity and increased local employment were recorded as key success factors, overall enhancing security and livelihoods in the community.

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5. Towards future climate, peace and security programming

The evolution of UNDP's CPS portfolio offers important insights into what has enabled progress and where future programming can build further. Key lessons emerging from the review include:

Early catalytic investments matter. Initial pilots, including those supported by the CSM, proved critical in generating early evidence and demonstrating the value of integrated programming. These early successes helped scale up larger climate and peacebuilding funding streams. Many country offices were able to expand from a single CPS initiative to develop successive proposals and effectively a portfolio approach, supported by multiple funding sources, illustrating a clear first-mover advantage.

Field-driven approaches. While some projects benefited from catalytic contributions from headquarters, others emerged organically, reflecting country-level demand rather than supply-driven approach.

Key partnerships as force multipliers. Collaboration with key partners, such as the PBF, vertical funds, regional organizations and bilateral partners which actively advocated on CPS, allowed projects to combine climate, peacebuilding and development expertise, reinforcing both legitimacy and reach.

Advisory capacity strengthens effectiveness. The deployment of CPS advisors covering all global regions has been essential. CPS advisors provided dedicated technical expertise, developed and adapted interventions to local contexts, linked field practice with global policy, playing a key role in uncovering opportunities, connecting the dots and supporting management and capacities in the field. Inter-regional exchanges further helped foster programming.

Capacity development delivers lasting dividends. Strong CPS portfolios require investment not only in projects, but also in people and systems. Investments in capacity building, including through flagship initiatives, such as the Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy and Network, which has trained hundreds of policymakers and practitioners, have built a cadre of national and international professionals able to carry forward integrated approaches.

Community-centered and tailored approaches enhance legitimacy. Inclusive design processes that meaningfully involve women, youth, displaced groups and marginalized communities have not only improved the effectiveness in the implementation of interventions but also strengthened ownership and sustainability.

Policy alignment amplifies impact. Projects linked directly to national priorities, e.g. NDCs, NAPs, peace agreements or regional frameworks such as the Boe Declaration IN the Pacific, demonstrated greater policy traction and integration into longer-term strategies. Successful CPS programming often advanced CPS policies and vice versa, including at a national and local level, with innovation often emerging from field practice.

Changing nature of investments. While early funding contributions came mainly from bilateral sources, pooled funding mechanisms now support CPS and increasingly more direct access opportunities are available for local entities, including youth and women-led initiatives.

Together, these investments have laid the foundation for UNDP's current CPS portfolio, to emerge as one of the most comprehensive in the UN system.

Building on the momentum of growing international recognition and the lessons learnt through the ongoing implemented interventions, future CPS programming must evolve to meet the growing demand. Future programming should aim to expand to new geographic areas and underexplored sub-themes, deepen existing investments, knowledge, partnerships and strengths, as well as innovate with solutions, new approaches, models and actors to drive transformative impact.

A key priority is engaging security and rule of law institutions, including security forces, the judiciary and justice system, not only in conflict prevention but also, to the extent possible, for post-conflict recovery and stabilization, where climate impacts can undermine fragile gains and fuel renewed tensions.

Strengthening the knowledge basis of CPS is essential. The next generation of CPS assessments should draw more systematically on scientific tools to project climate risks, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and temperature increase and apply technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. New thematic priorities could cover, for example, mitigation efforts in the context of mining and minerals, hydropower and energy transition as well as links to public health, urban fragility, stabilization and the security of coastal and maritime communities, among many others.

Equally essential is unlocking diversified and predictable financing. Current funding models remain fragmented and limited. Future programming should explore new financing channels, including green and blended finance, climate funds, security and stabilization financing and partnerships with international financial institutions, philanthropic organizations and the private sector.

As the world edges closer to irreversible tipping points with 2024 being the warmest year on record,[24] CPS interventions can no longer be viewed as a niche. They must become a central pillar of global efforts to collectively anticipate, prevent and respond to instability. The Part II of this publication aims to further inform and contribute to this objective.

[24] World Meteorological Organization. (2025). "WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.55°C above pre-industrial level". (accessed May 2025).

Climate, peace and security programming guidance note


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1. Overarching considerations for climate, peace and security programming

CPS programming lies at the intersection of multiple sectors, actors and layers of governance. Designing effective interventions in this space is inherently complex. Climate-related security risks are context-specific, multidimensional and often politically sensitive, shaped by both conflict and security dynamics and environmental pressures. Drawing on findings from the thematic review in Part I, a set of overarching considerations and core principles has emerged to guide the design and implementation of CPS projects.

Clarifying scope and integrating approaches. A foundational step in designing CPS interventions is determining the appropriate analytical and programmatic entry point. Defining a clear scope means focusing specifically on how climate impacts interact with peace and security dynamics in a given context, recognizing that climate stressors can influence multiple dimensions of security simultaneously, from intercommunal conflict and political instability to food insecurity, displacement or social fragmentation.

Well-designed, evidence-based interventions that have a clear scope not only reduce these risks but also create positive co-benefits of climate and peace action, such as strengthened social cohesion, improved trust in institutions, or more inclusive governance of natural resources. They can open space for dialogue by addressing shared challenges that transcend political divides. For example, in Mali, the project applied climate-informed land use planning and dispute resolution mechanisms to address tensions in farmer-herders dynamics, laying the groundwork for longer-term resilience and peace dividends between communities.


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Multi-sectoral collaboration and leveraging diverse expertise. Given the inherently multidisciplinary nature, CPS projects should involve diverse expertise from the start, including on climate action, disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, among others. This ensures that diverse perspectives and methodologies are integrated throughout different phases of the project cycle. Successful initiatives, such as the North-West Climate-Peace Hubs project in Nigeria, brought together teams with complementary skillsets and operational experience.

Interdisciplinary work also benefits from external resources and capacities, especially when not available in-house. Partnering with academic institutions, national observatories, UN agencies, think tanks, centers of excellence, private sector and local knowledge holders can significantly strengthen assessments, monitoring and implementation.

Locally anchored, context-aware and politically sensitive design. The success of CPS interventions depends on their local relevance, not only in terms of project content, but also in how priorities are framed and communicated. Programming must be grounded in the knowledge systems, governance structures and priorities of affected communities, presented in ways that resonate with their political and cultural realities. In Colombia's Sustainable Amazon for Peace project, participatory planning with Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities ensured that conservation goals aligned with local development priorities and cultural practices. Similarly, projects in Sudan, Zimbabwe and PNG emphasized the importance of working through existing community governance platforms and customary institutions to foster ownership and legitimacy.

BOX 8

Ensuring cultural acceptability: using the Talanoa approach for conflict mediation in the Pacific

Talanoa is a traditional Pacific approach to inclusive and transparent dialogue based on storytelling, empathy and consensus-building. Unlike confrontational mediation styles, Talanoa emphasises mutual respect, shared understanding and collective decision-making by creating a safe space among participating parties.

During the reviewed Climate Security in the Pacific project, the Talanoa approach was used by local partners as a mediation methodology in a dispute related to land management and possible future climate-related relocation. By locating the mediator inside the process, the approach provided a culturally grounded and locally owned method for trust-building and conflict resolution, demonstrating its value as an alternative to externally driven mediation techniques.

Cultural and political sensitivity is equally important in communication. Terms such as conflict, security or fragility can polarize conversations and trigger resistance in certain settings. Language should be used carefully and pragmatically to avoid amplifying divergences and vocabulary should reflect local narratives. For example, in the Pacific, project aligned its messaging with the regionally endorsed Boe Declaration on Regional Security, using it as foundational conceptual framework to secure greater buy-in from political and institutional actors. Beyond language, context-aware design requires ongoing engagement with stakeholders to understand what is politically acceptable, what is locally meaningful and where different actors are willing and able to act.

Flexibility and adaptive design in fragile contexts. CPS projects often operate in fragile and rapidly changing environments. Conflict escalation, displacement, natural disasters or political instability can quickly undermine initial project assumptions and disrupt implementation. For example, in Sudan, sudden changes in access, governance and conflict conditions forced the project team to re-programme activities, suspend engagement in certain areas and rethink delivery modalities. In such contexts, programming must be structured to allow for adaptation and rapid response. This means integrating contingency measures, such as modular workplans, flexible funding allocation and decision-making protocols that enable timely adjustments and rely on scenario planning to the extent possible. The use of prototype-based or pilot solutions that can be tested, adapted and scaled according to lessons learned, has been a successful strategy to minimize the risk of large-scale failure. Clear exit strategies are essential, particularly for vulnerable groups, to avoid dependency or exposure to harm should operations be disrupted.

Regional and transboundary dimensions. CPS risks often transcend national borders. Addressing such risks solely through a national lens can overlook key drivers of vulnerability and miss opportunities for early prevention or joint management. Integrating regional and transboundary considerations, where relevant, can improve policy coherence, prevent cross-border spillovers and unlock pathways for collective action. The projects in Central Asia and the Ukraine-Moldova are good examples of dialogues between national and subnational actors across borders on shared water resources.

Anchoring CPS programming in policy, planning and budgeting frameworks. Coherence, sustainability and political traction require CPS interventions to be embedded within relevant policy and institutional frameworks, whether at local, national, regional or global levels. Many countries and regions are increasingly investing in strategies and guidance specific to CPS and programming plays a critical role in operationalizing these frameworks.

This includes linking CPS to NAPs, NDCs, peacebuilding or climate strategies and sectoral development plans, among others. For example, in Nigeria, the CPS programming was anchored in state governments' annual budgets as prerequisite for implementation, securing a financial commitment at subnational level. By doing so, the project ensured that funding for core activities is predictable and legally allocated. Integrating CPS within national systems strengthens institutional ownership, attracts domestic and international financing and improves access to climate, peacebuilding and other funds.

Moving from standalone projects to integrated portfolios. Catalytic initiatives, whether supported by headquarter or emerging organically from country-level, often serve as entry points that enable expansion into broader CPS engagement. Hence a portfolio approach offers a structured way to scale up such work. It means designing and managing a set of interlinked interventions across countries, regions or thematic areas, guided by shared diagnostics, common theories of change and coordinated learning and monitoring frameworks.

For CPS programming, this approach helps move beyond isolated or one-off projects by organizing complementary entry points, such as climate adaptation, governance, conflict prevention or livelihoods, under a unified strategic vision. It allows innovations piloted in one context to inform and strengthen work elsewhere, supports more predictable and diversified financing and enhances institutional learning across levels.

2. Designing climate, peace and security projects

Integrated assessment to inform prioritization

Effective CPS programming begins with a context-specific assessment phase which helps unpack how climate impacts exacerbate underlying vulnerabilities and interact with local power and conflict dynamics. CPS assessments serve two functions. First, they define the scope and focus of programming by determine which climate-related security risks should be prioritized in a given location. Second, they create a shared understanding among project stakeholders, allowing government counterparts, communities, development partners, implementing agencies and other project actors to co-create a shared conceptual lens as part of the project formulation.

To ensure a robust evidence base, CPS assessments should draw on diverse sources and methodologies, including existing climate and disaster vulnerability assessments, conflict and violence datasets, early warning mechanisms and community-based monitoring platforms among others. Using both quantitative and qualitative tools ensures that the analysis reflects not only measurable trends, e.g. rainfall variability, conflict incidents, exposure to hazards, but also community perceptions, including how women, youth and marginalized groups experience and respond to risks.

Where feasible, CPS analysis should also examine bidirectional relationships, including how conflict dynamics undermine climate adaptation or exacerbate environmental degradation and how deteriorating environmental conditions can reinforce local tensions. Regular updates, ideally in collaboration with local communities, ensure assessments remain relevant amid changing dynamics.

In contexts where dedicated assessments are not feasible, the integration of climate considerations into existing conflict analysis or conversely, conflict-sensitivity and the do-no-harm approach into climate analysis, can be a useful starting point. Conflict sensitivity, widely used in development and humanitarian programming, ensures interventions do not exacerbate existing tensions. While conflict sensitivity analysis informs design of climate action to avoid harm, CPS analysis goes further. It examines how climate change shapes conflict dynamics, how conflict undermines adaptive capacity and where opportunities exist for peace-positive climate action. This provides a broader, forward-looking framework for identifying areas for transformative interventions. For example, the project in Indonesia illustrates this well. It combined climate modelling, violence monitoring (National Violence Monitoring System), qualitative interviews and participatory mapping in the Nusa Tenggara region. The analysis applied a broad approach to defining security, considering not just conflict-related violence, but also community and personal security, crime, domestic and GBV.

BOX 9

Methodologies and tools for climate, peace and security assessments

There has been a growing investment in developing dedicated tools and methodologies for CPS analysis. Some of these approaches draw on the concept of pathway, used in both academic and policy discourse to capture the compounded and dynamic interactions between climate risks and peace and security outcomes. The examples below are illustrative and highlight some of the key methodologies currently informing CPS analysis and practice.

GLOBAL-LEVEL

CSM Toolbox:
Developed by the CSM, this toolbox helps foster common approaches for analyzing climate-related security risks and developing responses. The toolbox consists of five complementary components:

1. An overview note;
2. A briefing note on climate security;
3. A document presenting a conceptual approach to integrated risk assessments;
4. A note on data sources; and
5. A checklist for climate-proofing political analysis.

Weathering risk:
This methodology has been designed by adelphi and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research to unpack interactions between environmental change and insecurity in different contexts. The approach consists of five steps:

1. Mapping of climate impacts in specific contexts using data and modeling;
2. Bringing in socio-economic analysis, preferably locally-led, to understand resilience of affected groups and communities;
3. Developing future scenarios, including through expert consultations;
4. Applying machine learning to data emerging from the previous steps to understand the diverse ways in which climate impacts relate to conflicts and insecurity; and
5. Identifying context-specific solutions to climate-security risks, with focus on no-regrets approaches.

REGIONAL-LEVEL

Pacific Climate Security Assessment Guide:
Developed under the 'Climate Security in the Pacific' project, in collaboration with the PIFS, it is a tool designed to help governments, regional entities and other stakeholders in the Pacific region to identify and address the links between climate change and security risks to inform programming and policy. It represents the first attempt to design a regionally tailored methodology, building on and contextualizing the global Weathering Risks approach.

Sources: Climate Security Mechanism. (2020). *Climate, Peace and Security Toolbox*. (accessed November 2025). At the time of writing, the CSM is discussing an update of the toolbox to reflect new evidence, tools and field practice.
Weathering Risk. (2023). *Climate Security Risk Assessment Methodology – Guide & Tools*. (accessed May 2025).
UNDP and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) (2023): *Pacific Climate Security Assessment Guide*.

Developing theories of change and programming trajectories

Theories of Change (ToC) are a common approach for translating assessment-derived priorities into integrated programming responses. They serve as a bridge between risk analysis and concrete interventions by articulating how and why a desired change is expected to occur in a specific context. Grounded in a clear problem statement and set of guiding assumptions, CPS ToCs outline expected medium- and long-term outcomes and they need to capture:

- The multiple ways climate impacts, governance challenges and social tensions intersect;
- The dual objective of strengthening climate resilience and supporting peace outcomes; and
- Key assumptions and uncertainties that may influence results, especially in fragile or rapidly changing environments.

BOX 10

The Nigeria 'Climate-Peace Hubs' project theory of change

The Nigeria 'Climate-Peace Hubs' project offers a useful example of how a ToC captures the way climate stressors interact with existing vulnerabilities, such as weak governance, livelihood insecurity, or intercommunal tensions over resource competition and outlines approaches through which programming can reduce these risks and achieve longer-term objectives, based on identified assumptions.

IF... →

... **men and women** in target communities are supported with **mutually reinforcing climate adaptation, livelihoods, and peace building solutions**, and

... local systems are improved to **collect and utilize data on these compound risks**, and

... **communities use climate science data** to inform climate- and conflict-smart livelihoods and natural resource management processes, and

... **communities strengthen social cohesion** through collaborative systems to overcome natural based resource conflict.

ASSUMING... →

... that through bringing people together around participatory environmental monitoring and resilience systems development, communities will **break down existing information barriers**, create a community of practice and foster trusted relationships in the community (herders-farmers) and between the communities and the State.

... that increased access to climate and conflict smart livelihoods **prevent these populations from engaging in illegal economies** as a coping strategy, enhancing people's trust and willingness to cooperate with natural resource management schemes.

... that natural resources access and use are at the core of the violent conflict, and that by strengthening local institutions and the local capacities to solve disputes with an evidence-based discussion and by peaceful means, **we prevent disputes on scarce resources from escalating into violence** and contributing to sustaining the ongoing reintegration of former bandits.

THEN...

... communities will become more resilient in the face of compounded climate and conflict risks.

Source: UNDP. (2022). North-West Climate-Peace Hubs: A Climate Security Approach to Conflict Prevention. Project Document.

3. Operational considerations for project implementation

Implementing CPS programming in fragile and rapidly changing contexts demands practical strategies for navigating institutional complexity, shifting risks and diverse stakeholder expectations. The review points to a set of operational considerations that enabled effective delivery in these settings.

Sustaining community engagement throughout implementation. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, where risks evolve quickly, implementation processes must remain responsive to shifting needs, power dynamics and conflict sensitivities. Several projects, including those in Zimbabwe and Colombia, established local advisory groups or community monitoring committees that provided ongoing input, flagged emerging concerns and adjusted activities in real time. Maintaining this feedback loop helps reinforce trust, avoid top-down delivery and adapt interventions when political or environmental conditions shift. It also ensures continued representation of marginalized voices throughout the project cycle.

Institutional coordination and leveraging existing governance arrangements. At the national level, CPS programming often requires close cooperation among ministries of environment, disaster, peace, security, planning, interior, finance and foreign affairs, among others. To overcome operational bottlenecks, such as fragmented mandates or unclear leadership, some initiatives supported the creation of inter-ministerial platforms or technical working groups to improve information flow and policy coherence. For example, the project in the Arab States facilitated multi-sectoral coordination among climate, humanitarian and development actors, while the project in Sudan helped link natural resource governance actors with peacebuilding authorities. These efforts underscore the need to invest in coordination capacity and political will early in the implementation phase.

At the same time, implementation takes place largely at the subnational or community level. Projects in Zimbabwe, Sudan and PNG, for example, worked through local governance structures and customary institutions to address disputes over land, water and forest resources.

These platforms are often better placed to mediate conflicts, facilitate resource-sharing and lead community-based planning. Operational success therefore hinges on building the capacity of these structures, linking them to formal institutions and ensuring that local voices influence programme delivery.

Identifying safeguards to mitigate risks for communities and participating stakeholders. Implementing CPS interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings involves exposure to significant risks, including reputational harm, physical insecurity and social or political backlash. In addition to corporately required social and environmental standards, operationalizing CPS programming may require additional context-specific measures to protect the people and institutions involved. Operational teams should assess these risks early in the project cycle and co-develop safeguards with local partners. For example, in PNG, safeguards were put in place to support women leaders who assumed visible roles in peace processes, many for the first time, in traditionally male-dominated spaces. Measures included preparatory confidence-building workshops, engagement with local elders to build legitimacy and coordination with formal authorities to ensure women's protection and recognition. These measures not only protected participants but also strengthened the credibility and uptake of the project's outcomes.

Developing context-appropriate modalities for engaging the security sector. Engaging with security sector is a sensitive but, in many contexts, essential component of CPS implementation, particularly where security institutions oversee land use, migration management, border control, disaster risks management or natural resource governance. Projects in North-West Nigeria and in Somalia, for example, involved coordination with security institutions as part of early warning systems and dialogue platforms on transhumance and grazing conflicts. Experience across several projects also highlights the complexity of such engagement and the need for dedicated context-sensitive modalities. Many security actors and institutions have very limited climate-related mandates or technical capacity, while CPS practitioners may have limited experience working with law enforcement or military actors. Trust in security institutions is often low in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and engagement also carries risks of perceived or actual securitization. For these reason programming should ensure civilian oversight, human rights safeguards and community-informed strategies.[25]

This includes:

- Defining clear engagement mandates and inter-agency coordination protocols;
- Ensuring transparency and joint ownership of activities;
- Maintaining transparency and communication to avoid perceptions of securitization;
- Anticipating how climate impacts may affect security sector capacities and roles; and
- Promoting long-term trust-building and strengthening the social contract through constructive engagement.

Effective CPS programming also requires anticipating how climate impacts may affect the operational capacity of security institutions and understanding how their roles may need to evolve in response to changing risk profiles. This includes working with ministries of interior, defense, local security actors and police forces as part of a whole-of-government response, while ensuring robust civilian oversight and coherence with broader peace and governance frameworks.

[25] See: UNDP. (2024) *Implementation Tool for the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy* (HRDDP) & UNDP and Folked Bernadotte Academy. (2022). *A People-Centred Approach to Security.*

BOX 11

Climate, peace and security in stabilization contexts in the Sahel

Emerging practice from the Sahel offers relevant insights for CPS programming in high-risk stabilization settings, although not part of the reviewed projects. In the region, where the security landscape is marked by armed conflict, political instability and the increasing impacts of climate change, UNDP and partners have started to explore ways to account for CPS considerations in stabilization settings. Drawing on experience from the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma regions, practitioners have identified security actors not only as part of the risk landscape, but, when appropriately engaged, as key stakeholders in fostering resilience and supporting recovery.

Discussions held during the Regional Expert Workshop on Climate, Peace and Security in Stabilization Contexts, held in Senegal in 2024 and following High-Level Partnership Forum on Climate, Peace and Security in Stabilization Contexts in New York in 2024, highlighted several promising practices. A key lesson was that coordinated civilian and security responses are essential when extreme climate events threaten to reverse stabilization gains. One participant recalled a flood incident in Chad, where despite early warnings, the lack of preparedness mechanisms led to damage to infrastructure and livelihoods, illustrating importance of joint preparedness, early warning systems and communication protocols.

Practitioners also noted that local stabilization committees that bring together security representatives, community leaders and administrative authorities, are increasingly being used as platforms to co-design climate-informed peace and security interventions.

In areas facing high insecurity and weak infrastructure, solar-powered street lighting was cited as a successful example of a climate-sensitive measure that simultaneously improves safety, enables evening economic activity, such as small markets and transport services and lower the exposure to protection risks, illustrating how low-tech climate solutions can generate both climate action and security dividends.

Source: UNDP. (2025). *Climate, Peace and Security in Stabilization Contexts in the Sahel*.

4. Measuring climate, peace and security outcomes and developing indicators

Measuring progress in CPS programming presents distinct challenges. Because CPS interventions operate across sectors and seek to influence complex social-ecological systems, traditional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approaches often fail to capture the full range of changes they generate. Yet the ability to demonstrate CPS-specific results is essential, both to inform adaptive management but also to strengthen the case for sustained investment in integrated approaches.

A key lesson from the review is that CPS M&E must be designed to capture both immediate outputs and slower, less tangible shifts in governance, behaviour and relationships. This includes not only direct deliverables, such as the establishment of early warning mechanisms or the number of dialogues facilitated, but also more complex results that unfold over longer time horizons, such as trust between communities and authorities, cooperation over natural resources or perceptions of safety and inclusion. These dimensions require measurement approaches that extend beyond quantitative indicators.

In contexts affected by displacement, land degradation or severe environmental stress, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings and SIDS, M&E system should also capture forms of environmental and social disruption that often fall outside conventional M&E frameworks.[26] These may include the effects of involuntary mobility, loss of land and livelihoods, erosion of cultural practices and shifts in identity or community cohesion, among others. Projects in these settings have used storytelling, participatory narrative methods, community-led monitoring and culturally grounded practices to ensure these dimensions are reflected in reporting.[27]

Effective CPS M&E also functions as feedback and learning system that informs real-time decision-making, not only as a tool for accountability. Key enablers of this approach include flexible workplans, regular pause-and-reflect exercises and localized monitoring structures that ensure the continuous involvement of community actors.

A robust CPS M&E framework requires indicators tailored to the ToC and grounded in local contexts. Indicators must capture results at different levels, for example output, outcome and impact levels and be flexible enough to accommodate uncertainty. Capturing change in CPS programming can be challenging, given that many results, such as changes in behaviors, perceptions, cooperation or trust, are difficult to quantify. In such cases, proxies and perception-based tools, such as participatory monitoring can provide meaningful insights and complement more traditional quantitative metrics. Indicators should also reflect disaggregation by gender, age, disability and other relevant dimensions to ensure that results reflect differentiated experiences.

[26] UNEP. (2019). *Addressing Climate-Related Security Risks Guidance Note, Monitoring & Evaluation Note*. (accessed April 2025).

[27] UNDP. (2009). *Handbook On Planning, Monitoring And Evaluating For Development Results*. (accessed November 2025).

BOX 12

From theory of change to metrics and indicators

Drawing on the analysed Nigeria project 'North-West Climate-Peace Hubs: A Climate Security Approach to Conflict Prevention', the examples below illustrate how a CPS ToC and related outputs and outcomes, can be translated into measurable indicators. Using the ToC included in the Box 11, the following examples unpack one selected project output and suggest possible dimensions that can be considered in designing quantitative, qualitative and proxy indicators:

PROJECT OUTPUT:

Collaborative systems and practices for communal management of natural resources strengthened

Examples of **quantitative** elements:

- Number of disputes or conflicts related to natural resources that have been resolved through inclusive, collaborative mechanisms (disaggregated by location, actor type and gender);
- Number of reported incidents of illegal activities (e.g., poaching, unauthorized logging) before and after the implementation of collaborative management practices;
- Number of early warning systems or risk maps developed or updated that integrate both climate hazards (e.g., seasonal rainfall variability, flood risks) and conflict triggers (e.g., access disputes, transhumance tensions).

Examples of **qualitative** elements:

- Changes in relationships and cooperation among communities and groups that share natural resources;
- Community members' satisfaction with the fairness, transparency and outcomes of dispute resolution and resource-sharing processes;
- Perceptions of women and youth about their role and influence in communal resource planning and conflict resolution.

Examples of **proxy** elements:

- Institutional partnerships formed to support community-led, climate-smart resource governance (e.g., with meteorological services, agricultural extension, or peacebuilding organizations);
- Number of cross-community exchanges to share traditional climate adaptation knowledge or sustainable practices.

An additional approach, outlined in the 2025 PBF 'Tip Sheet on Climate, Peace and Security and Environmental Peacebuilding', suggests organizing CPS indicators according to different levels of change, whether insitutional, policy, community or sub-group. This structure enables tracking progress across multiple dimensions, from shifts in national planning to improvements in local governance and trust.

BOX 13

PBF climate, peace and security Tip Sheet: sample indicators

In the PBF tip sheet, sample indicators are organized into four main categories, illustrative of level of desired change:

Policy-level indicators aim to measure how climate-security considerations are influencing policy, planning and budgeting processes. For instance, indicators include:

- Evidence of use of climate, peace and security data to inform national or local policy decisions;
- Existence of improved data on climate-security risks incorporated into planning frameworks;
- Number of gender-responsive advocacy efforts that have contributed to policy changes or amendments.

Institutional-level indicators focus on the capacities and performance of institutions involved in managing CPS risks. Examples include:

- Improved institutional ability to collect and analyse climate data for strengthening social cohesion between mobile and host communities;
- Number of dialogues on transhumance involving local government, farmers and herders;
- Integration of climate risk considerations into national early warning systems and planning mechanisms.

Community-level indicators assess how CPS interventions are impacting community dynamics, resilience and conflict resolution. Examples include:

- Number of climate-related conflicts resolved peacefully through community mechanisms;
- Percentage of community members reporting a reduction in competition over natural resources;
- Number of community agreements on water use that are successfully implemented.

Specific sub-community inclusion indicators measure how well interventions are supporting the inclusion of marginalized groups such as women, youth and indigenous populations. Examples include:

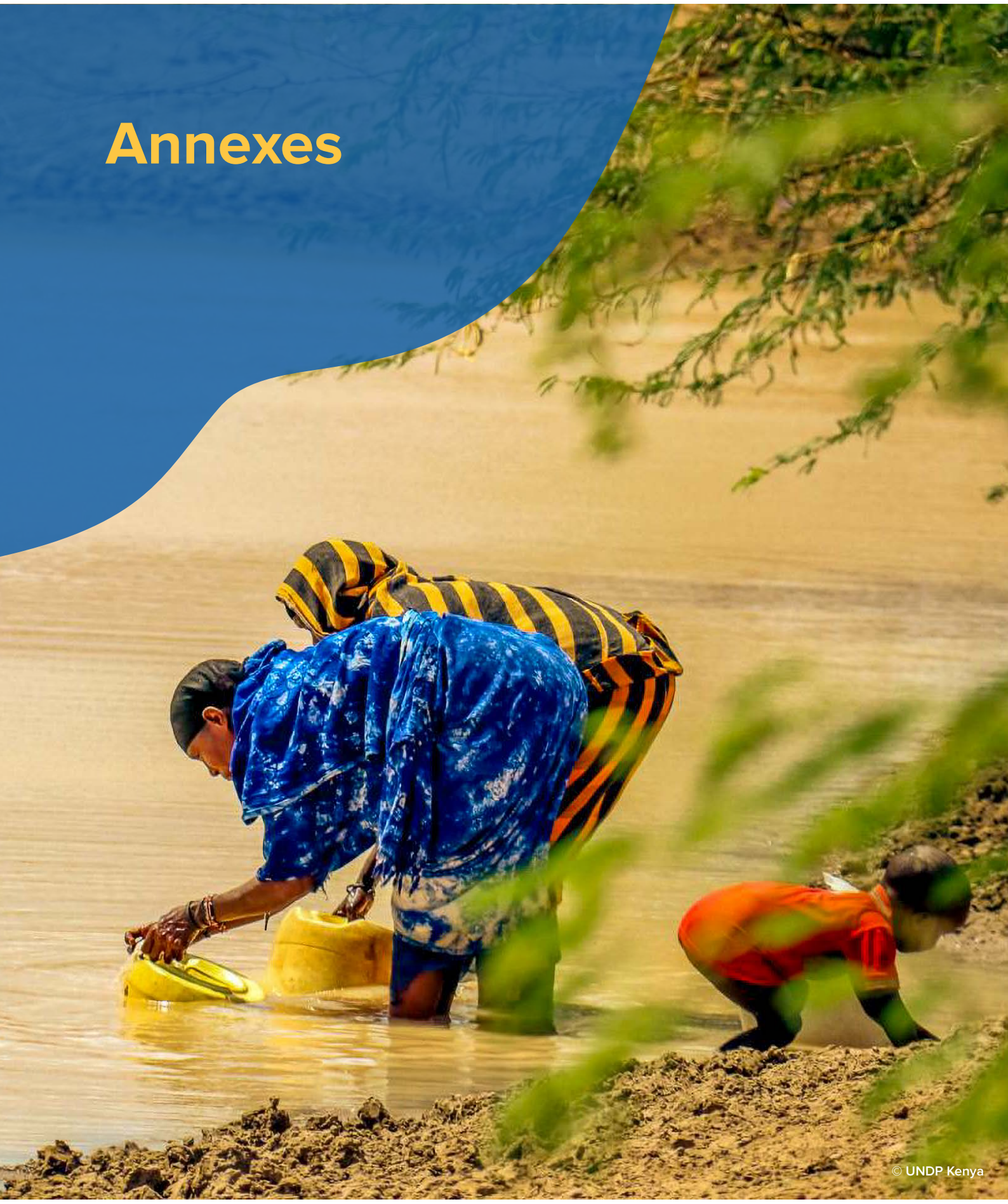
- Percentage of at-risk rural women and youth switching to renewable energy sources;
- Proportion of women involved in land and water dispute resolution fora;
- Level of acceptance and support for target groups by other community members.

Source: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (2025). *Peacebuilding Fund Tip Sheet on Climate, Peace and Security and Environmental Peacebuilding*.

In addition to supporting project-level measurement, CPS project indicators can also contribute to broader reporting requirements of governments, regional bodies and other partners. A wide range of international frameworks provide complementary indicator structures, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention of Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, among others. UNFCCC, particularly under the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Framework for Global Climate Resilience,[28] is advancing efforts to define global adaptation indicators that can be tailored to national contexts. Aligning CPS indicators with these frameworks can enhance institutional coherence and create opportunities for integrated data use across climate, development and peacebuilding agendas.

[28] The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, adopted at COP28 in 2023, is the first international declaration to prioritize climate adaptation, offering a structured set of thematic and process-related targets to guide national efforts, monitoring and accountability under the Global Goal on Adaptation. For more information, see: International Institute for Sustainable Development. (2024). *What Is the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, and How Can Countries Move It Forward?*. (accessed November 2025).

Annexes



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Annex 1: A compilation of useful references for CPS programming

This annex provides a curated list of key resources to support the design, implementation and evaluation of CPS initiatives. It brings together key programming guidance, assessment methodologies, data tools and analytical platforms developed by UN agencies, research institutions and international partners. While this compilation is primarily intended to support UNDP programming, it also includes other relevant tools and guidance useful for any actor working at the intersection of CPS. The list is not exhaustive but highlights widely used and influential resources, spanning global, regional and local levels.

Relevant programming guidance resources

Level	Publication	Year	Organization	Link
Global	**PBF Tip Sheet on Climate, Peace and Security and Environmental Peacebuilding** A practical guide outlining how the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) incorporates climate-security risks into peacebuilding programming.	2025	UN PBF	PBF Tip Sheet on Climate, Peace and Security and Environmental Peacebuilding
	Beyond vulnerability: A guidance note on youth, climate, peace and security This guidance outlines how to meaningfully engage youth as agents of change at the intersection of climate action, peacebuilding and security.	2024	Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)/UNDP/ the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	Beyond vulnerability: A guidance note on youth, climate, peace and security
	Bridging Generations - Pathways to a Youth-Inclusive Climate, Peace and Security Agenda An exploration of how intergenerational cooperation can strengthen youth-inclusive strategies for addressing climate-related security risks.	2024	UNDP	Bridging Generations - Pathways to a Youth-Inclusive Climate, Peace and Security Agenda
	Climate-Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review A comprehensive review analyzing how climate change impacts conflict dynamics and offering strategies for integrating climate considerations into peacebuilding efforts.	2023	PBSO/UNU	Climate-Security and Peacebuilding: Thematic Review
	Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace This paper argues for adaptation policies that proactively address conflict risks and promote peacebuilding outcomes.	2023	UNDP	Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace
	Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts This study explores how climate finance mechanisms can be adapted to support peacebuilding and resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings.	2021	UNDP	Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts

	Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations An evaluation report assessing the Global Environment Facility's effectiveness, relevance and challenges in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.	2020	GEF (Independent Evaluation Office)	Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations
	Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change A report emphasizing the critical role of gender-responsive approaches in addressing climate-security risks and sustaining inclusive peace processes.	2020	UNDP/UN Women/ UNEP/ DPPA	Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change
	UNDP Climate Security Nexus and Prevention of Violent Extremism A policy note connecting climate insecurity to the drivers of violent extremism, proposing integrated prevention approaches.	2020	UNDP	UNDP Climate Security Nexus and Prevention of Violent Extremism
Regional	**Climate, Peace and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean** A regional assessment highlighting how climate change exacerbates security challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean and recommending integrated solutions.	2023	UNDP	Climate, Peace and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Climate, Peace and Security Programming in the Arab States: Considerations for integrated programming in Jordan, Yemen, Iraq and Somalia A programming guidance document offering lessons and entry points for integrated climate, peace and security initiatives in the Arab States.	2023	UNDP	Considerations for integrated programming in Jordan, Yemen, Iraq and Somalia
	Mapping of Climate Security Adaptations at Community Level in the Horn of Africa (2023) A mapping study documenting community-led adaptations to climate-security risks across the Horn of Africa to inform policy and program design.	2023	UNDP/Life and Peace Institute (LPI)	Mapping of Climate Security Adaptations at Community Level in the Horn of Africa
	UNDP West and Central Africa Regional Programme on Climate Security in Western Sahel A program overview showcasing integrated approaches to enhance climate resilience and peace across coastal West Africa and the Sahel.	2022	UNDP	UNDP WACA (West and Central Africa) Regional Programme on Climate Security in Western Sahel
Country level	**Stocktaking of security sector roles in climate and environmental security: Report on Iraq** A stocktaking report analyzing how Iraq's security sector actors are engaging with climate and environmental security challenges.	2024	UNDP	Stocktaking of security sector roles in climate and environmental security: Report on Iraq
	Republic of the Marshall Islands Climate Security Risk Assessment A climate security assessment highlighting the vulnerabilities of the Marshall Islands and suggesting strategies for climate-resilient peacebuilding.	2023	UNDP	Republic of the Marshall Islands Climate Security Risk Assessment
	Roots for peace: Uncovering climate security challenges in Haiti and what to do about them A country-specific analysis outlining climate-security risks in Haiti and proposing actionable recommendations for peacebuilding and resilience.	2023	Weathering Risk	Roots for peace: Uncovering climate security challenges in Haiti and what to do about them

Climate, peace and security assessment methodologies

Level	Resource	Year	Organization	Link
Global	**CSM Toolbox** A suite of resources, frameworks and guidance notes developed by the UN CSM to support UN staff in analyzing and responding to climate-related security risks.	2020	CSM	UN CSM
	Climate Security Risk Assessment Tool An analytical tool developed by adelphi and partners to help systematically assess climate-related security risks using a structured, multi-dimensional approach.	2023	Weathering Risk	Climate Security Assessment Tool
	Weathering Risk A global initiative that provides an integrated climate-security risk assessment approach, combining data-driven analysis with peacebuilding expertise.	2021	adelphi / Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)	Weathering Risk
Regional	**Pacific Climate Security Assessment Guide** A context-specific guide developed to support Pacific Island countries in assessing climate-related security risks and integrating them into policy and planning.	2023	PIFS/UNDP/ IOM/adelphi	Pacific Climate Security Assessment Guide
	Mapping Climate Mobility Hotspot Risks: An Approach for Development Organizations to Assess Risks and Responses to Climate Mobility A methodology to identify climate mobility hotspots in Latin America & the Caribbean, integrating climate shocks, socioeconomic drivers and vulnerabilities to guide policy and planning for migration and displacement.	2024	UNDP	Mapping Climate Mobility Hotspot Risks
Local	**Localising Climate, Peace and Security – A Practical Step-by-Step Guidance Note** A practical guide offering step-by-step support for local and community-level actors to assess and address climate-related security risks through participatory and inclusive approaches.	2023	GPPAC	Localising Climate, Peace and Security

Data supporting tools

Subject	Tool	Short description	Link
CPS tools and databases	UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboard	An interactive platform aggregating real-time data on displacement, conflict and socio-economic risks for crisis anticipation and response for Country Teams and Governments.	Crisis Risk Dashboard
	Geoguard	A DPPA Special Political Mission database (not open to the public) that integrates satellite imagery, climate data and conflict alerts for early warning in some Special Political Mission contexts.	Geoguard
	Strata	An open geospatial platform providing localized climate, environmental and security data to map and predict climate-security risks.	Strata

Displacement	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) – Global Internal Displacement Database	A global database tracking displacement caused by conflict, disasters and climate events.	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
	International Orgnaization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)	A system collecting and analyzing data on the mobility, needs and vulnerabilities of displaced and mobile populations.	Displacement Tracking Matrix
	OCHA Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	A repository offering open humanitarian datasets, including displacement figures, crisis maps and vulnerability data.	Humanitarian Data Exchange
	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Operational Data Portal (ODP)	Provides operational data on refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers, including movement trends and demographic profiles.	United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees
Climate Data	Climate Impact Explorer – Potsdam Institute	A tool visualizing potential regional impacts of climate change across sectors like health, water and agriculture.	Climate Analytics — Climate impact explorer
	Copernicus Climate Data Store	A European platform offering free access to global climate datasets, forecasts and historical weather records.	Climate Data Store
	UNDP Climate Information Platform	A platform delivering early warning, risk monitoring and climate services to support adaptation and resilience programming.	Climate information and early warning systems | Climate Promise
	World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal (CCKP)	A portal offering country-level climate risk profiles, historical data and future climate projections.	Home | Climate Change Knowledge Portal
	World Meteorological Organization Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)	A global initiative providing risk data and strengthening early warning systems for extreme weather and climate hazards.	Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)
Conflict data	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) – The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	A regional platform collecting and analyzing conflict and security data to prevent violence across Eastern Africa.	CEWARN - IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism - Official Website | Home
	Fragile States Index – Fund for Peace	An annual ranking assessing state fragility based on social, economic and political indicators.	Fragile States Index | The Fund for Peace
	Global Peace Index – Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	A ranking that measures the relative peacefulness of countries based on safety, conflict and militarization indicators.	Global Peace Index - Institute for Economics & Peace
	INFORM Risk Index – Joint Research Centre (EU)	A global open-source tool assessing the risk of humanitarian crises by combining hazard, vulnerability and coping capacity data.	INFORM - Global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters
	Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)	A source of detailed data on organized violence, including civil wars, non-state conflicts and peace agreements.	UCDP - Uppsala Conflict Data Program

Conflict analytical forecasting tool	ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data) Conflict Alert System (Cast)	A system that provides near real-time alerts and forecasts of political violence and protests globally.	ACLED Conflict Alert System (CAST)
	Conflict Forecast	A predictive tool aiming to anticipate conflict outbreaks using machine learning and socio-political data.	Conflict Forecast: a new tool to predict conflict before it happens - SOMMa
	HalaSystems	A private company using sensors and AI to provide real-time early warnings for conflict zones, notably through the "Sentry" system.	Hala Systems
	PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo)	A leading research institution providing studies and models on conflict trends, peacebuilding and security.	Home – Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
	VIEWS (Violence and Impacts Early-Warning System)	A platform that predicts the likelihood and intensity of violent conflicts and humanitarian crises months ahead.	Predicting conflict and humanitarian impacts | VIEWS

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