

**Berlin Summer Dialogue  
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The challenge posed by fragile states and climate change**



# *Vulnerability of Fragile States*

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**Did you know?**

262 million people were affected by climate disasters in 2004, more than 98 per cent of them in developing countries



No conclusive evidence of direct links or causal relationships

Consensus that there are complex linkages and multiple factors exacerbating impact

# Introduction

Impact mediated through a number of complexes and interacting factors and conditions

- Weak governance
- Lack of adaptive capacity
- Poverty and inequality
- Legacy of past conflict
- Political instability
- Ethnic fault lines

Mal-adaptation could also lead to high risk of instability and conflict

# Fragility

- **Partially overlapping but distinct notions or labels**
  - vulnerability to humanitarian crises;
  - under development;
  - political instability;
  - lack of security;
  - lack of legitimacy and authority;
  - lack of political commitment of a government to perform its duties;
  - lack of capacity to deliver basic services; and
  - in some cases but not necessarily a condition, conflict and post-conflict environments

# Fragility

Whether on a national or sub-national scale, can be defined by three dimensions

**Authority, Service and Legitimacy Failure**

# Complexity

## Climate Change Impacts

## Human Dynamics

## Possible Societal Impacts

Temperature variation

Precipitation

Water runoff

Droughts

Extreme events

Soil erosion

Desertification

Sea level rise



Weak institutions

Lack of legitimacy

Social instability

Environmental conflicts

Crime, urban violence

Terrorism

Civil unrest

Armed conflicts

# Complexity

## 3 Potential Major Consequences:

1. Scarcity of renewable resources.
2. Sea level rise with potential for large scale population displacement.
3. Human security in the face of recurring natural disasters.



# Complexity



## 1. Political instability:

- Weak governance
- Non-existent institutions
- Inability to provide basic needs
- Growing gap between rich and poor

# 3 Key Risks



## 3. Food insecurity

- Uncertainty of supply not shortage



## 2. Economic weakness

- Livelihoods and human security left to slowly erode
- Economic development fails as viable adaptation

# Consequence

# of the

**“The physical consequences of climate change may be largely in the hands of nature, but the consequence of these consequences is not.”**

**(Smith & Vivekananda, 2007)**

# Consequences

# Consequence of the Consequences

## 5 Major Social Effects:

1. Economic problems and reduced state income
2. Increasing resource competition between groups when ethnic, national or religious fault lines are aligned
3. Increasing unemployment due to resource scarcity and loss of livelihoods
4. Addressing effects of climate change through large scale adaptation, austerity and cutting basic services
5. Forcing people to migrate when all else fails leading to encroachment on other groups' resources

# Challenges

## External Assistance:

1. Ownership
2. Strategic dilemmas
3. Political processes
4. Governance models
5. Aid allocation and climate finance
6. Harmonisation of funding
7. Predictability of funding
8. On-budget vs. Off Budget Support

## Internal Factors:

1. State Society Relations and State Legitimacy
2. Social Expectations of the State
3. State vs. Non-State Actors
4. Response to External Shocks

# Conflict Sensitive Adaptation

## 1. Adaptation to climate change needs to be conflict sensitive

*Interventions must respond to people's needs in an inclusive and consultative way*

## 2. Peace building needs to be climate proof

*Post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction taking account of long-term viability of sector priorities and climate impact*

## 3. Mitigation and shifting to low-carbon economies also conflict sensitive

*Developed countries' agenda for low emissions fuelling rapid move to bio-fuels!*

## 4. Support for poor countries' social capacity to understand and manage climate and conflict risks

## 5. Greater effort to understand and plan for, and cope peacefully with climate and disaster related migration

# Adaptation, Risk Reduction & Peace Building



**Develop inclusive adaptive strategies**

**Avoid Top-down adaptation**

**Manage conflict without resorting to violence**

**Conflict sensitive adaptation based on**

- Peace building
- Engaging communities' energies in social processes
- Bringing together science and local knowledge
- Capitalising on communities' autonomous adaptation
- Providing information and resources to strengthen resilience

The journey begins

