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# Climate Change, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

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**Table 1.** Top 10 countries with the most multilateral peace operations personnel and their exposure to climate change

Rank	Country	Total personnel	ND-Gain Exposure		
			Exposure score	Exposure country rank	Relative level of exposure
1	Somalia	21 732	0.526	171	Most exposed
2	DRC	18 046	0.494	149	Most exposed
3	South Sudan	17 691	0.542 <sup>a</sup>	177 <sup>a</sup>	Most exposed
4	Afghanistan	17 191	0.481	134	More exposed
5	Mali	16 129	0.525	170	Most exposed
6	CAR	14 460	0.495	151	Most exposed
7	Lebanon	10 556	0.332	21	Least exposed
8	Sudan (Darfur)	8 971	0.542 <sup>a</sup>	177 <sup>a</sup>	Most exposed
9	Abyei <sup>b</sup>	4 722	0.542 <sup>a</sup>	177 <sup>a</sup>	Most exposed
10	Kosovo	4 127	0.363 <sup>c</sup>	41	Least exposed



# Peacebuilding in times of climate change



## CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE

FLORIAN KRAMPE

Building peace is never straightforward but there is an increasing awareness that the challenge will become exponentially more difficult in countries where climate change is amplifying social and political instability.<sup>1</sup> Eight of the ten countries hosting the most multilateral peace operations personnel in 2018 are located in areas highly exposed to climate change (see table 1).<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, international efforts to build and maintain peace are not yet taking these emerging challenges systematically into account. This is concerning because the interactions between climate change and violent conflict prolong the latter, inhibit

peacebuilding and increase the human costs of war.<sup>3</sup> Climate-related changes compound social, economic and political challenges, especially in regions in which agriculture is an important source of livelihoods.<sup>4</sup> This results in climate-related security risks, which also means an increased likelihood of violent conflict.<sup>5</sup> However, the impacts are temporally and spatially diverse, because different social, political and economic contexts and processes are exacerbated by different climate-related changes. The same is true of peacebuilding. Social, political and

<sup>1</sup> Ruttinger, L. et al., *A New Climate for Peace: Taking Action on Climate Fragility Risks* (Adelphi, International Alert, Wilson Center and EUISS), Berlin, 2015; and Krampe, F., 'Water for peace? Post-conflict water resource management in Kosovo', *Cooperation and Conflict*, vol. 52, no. 2 (2016), pp. 147–66.

<sup>2</sup> USAID, *The Intersection of Global Fragility and Climate Risks* (USAID, Washington, DC, 2018); and Peters, K., Mayhew, L., Sim, H., van Aals, M. and Arrighi, J., *Double Vulnerability: The Humanitarian Implications of Intersecting Climate and Conflict Risk*, Working Paper 550 (International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Overseas Development Institute, London, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> In terms of international personnel, as of 31 Dec. 2018. Smit, T. and van der Lijn, J., 'Peace operations and conflict management', *SIPRI Yearbook 2019: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> Busby, J. and von Uexküll, N., 'Climate shocks and humanitarian crises: Which countries are most at risk?', *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 97, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2018).

<sup>5</sup> van Baalen, S. and Moberg, M., 'Climate change and violent conflict in East Africa: Integrating qualitative and quantitative research to probe the mechanisms', *International Studies Review*, vol. 43, no. 4 (Dec. 2017), pp. 547–875.

### SUMMARY

● Eight of the ten countries hosting the most multilateral peace operations personnel in 2018 are located in areas highly exposed to climate change. As such, climate change is not just an issue of human security—it is transforming the entire security landscape.

Nonetheless, international efforts to build and maintain peace are not yet taking these emerging challenges systematically into account.

This policy brief illustrates how climate change impacts the efficacy of peacebuilding, specifically the aim (a) to provide peace and security; (b) to strengthen governance and justice; and (c) to ensure social and economic development.

To better prepare for and adequately respond to what are increasingly complex peacebuilding efforts must become more climate-sensitive.

Especially there is a need to

(a) properly assess climate-related security risks; (b) increase cross-agency knowledge exchange and learning; and (c) maximize synergies and realize climate action as opportunities to build sustainable peace.

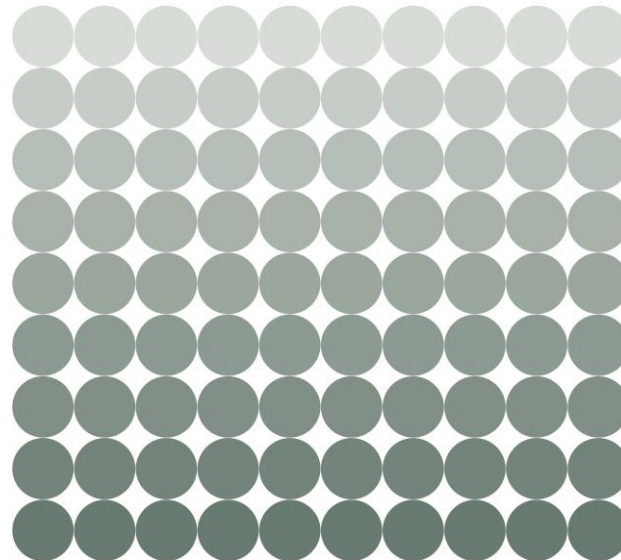
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## CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS AND PEACEBUILDING IN SOMALIA

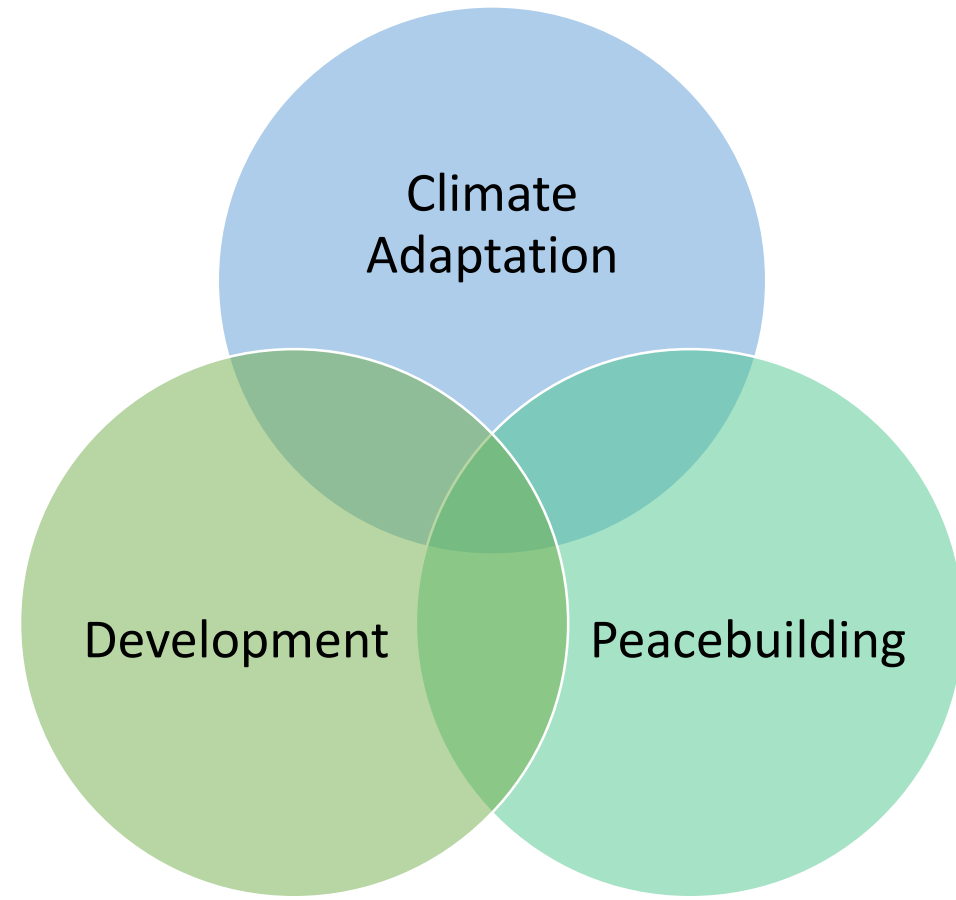
KAROLINA EKLÖW AND  
FLORIAN KRAMPE



- How is climate-related environmental change hindering the successful implementation of peace operation mandates?
- How have peace operations integrated the challenges stemming from climate-related environmental change into their ongoing operations?

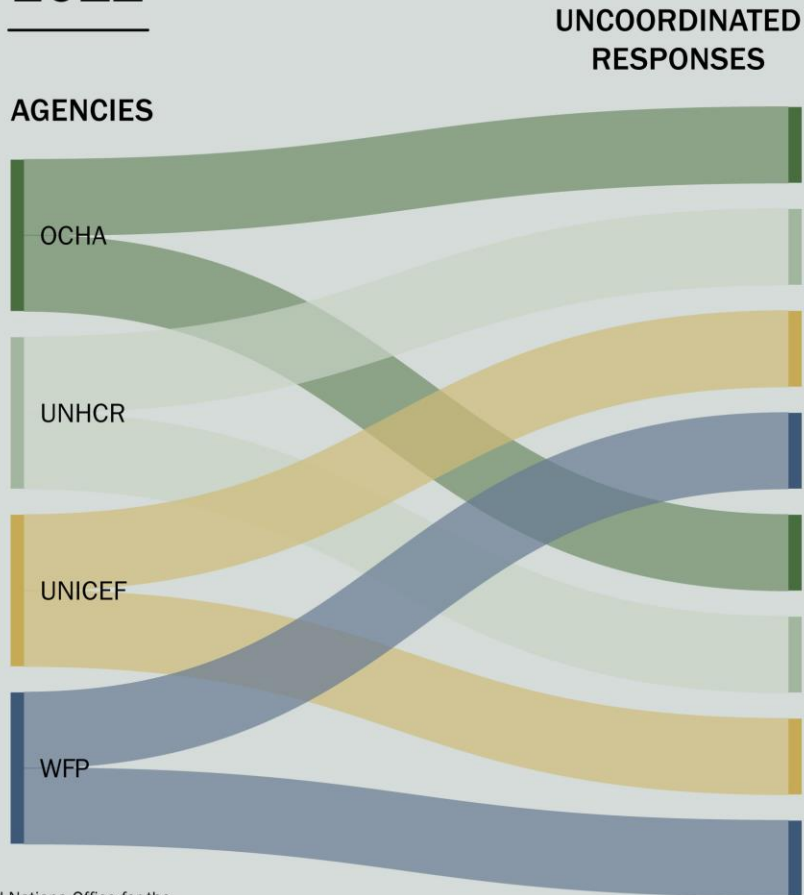
# Peacebuilding efforts must become more climate-sensitive:

- 1. Properly assess climate-related security risks.*
- 2. Increase cross-agency knowledge exchange and learning.*
- 3. Maximize synergies.*



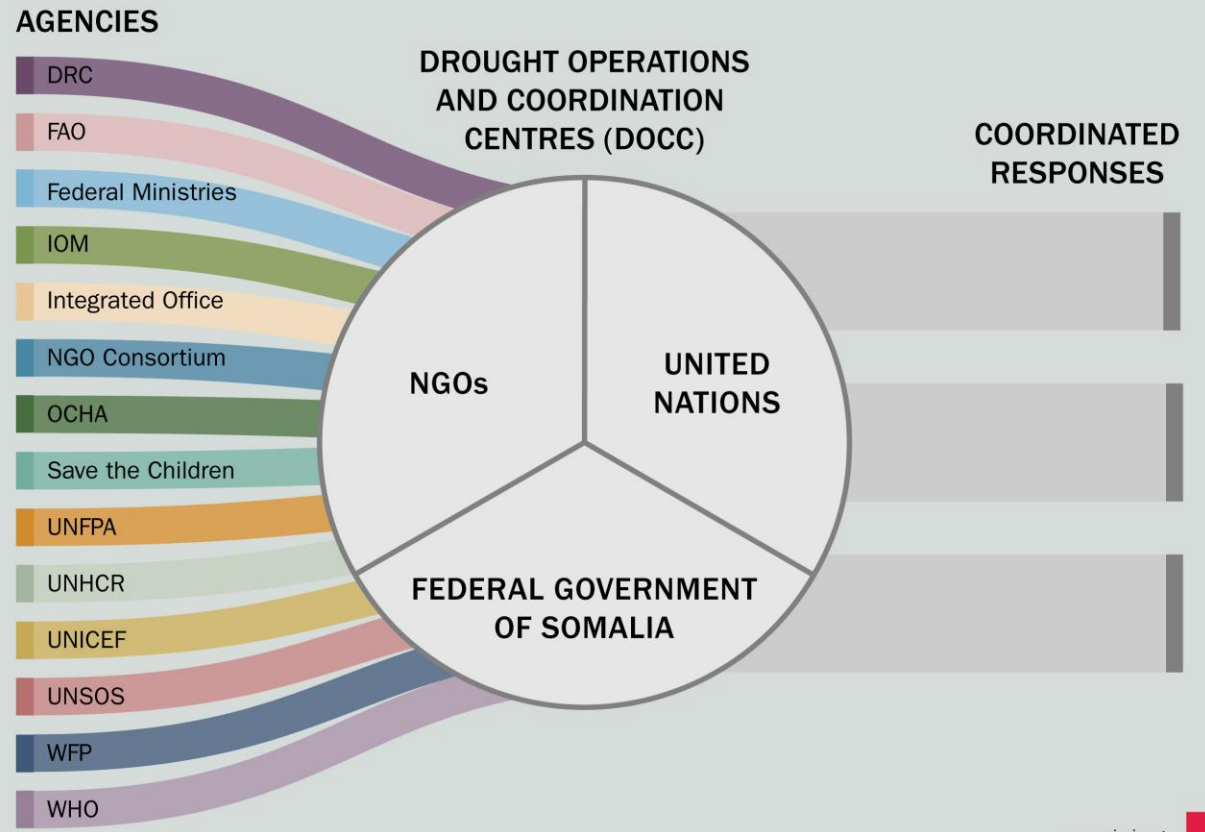
# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES TO DROUGHT IN SOMALIA, 2011 AND 2017:

**2011**



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

**2017**



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