

Towards a Common Vision of Climate, Peace, Security & Migration in Mozambique: **Key Messages**

Gracious Maviza, Giulia Caroli, Niklas Sax, Joram Tarusarira and Peter Laderach



Photo: John Hogg / World Bank

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- 1. Foster collaboration and partnerships around climate security** through relevant multi-stakeholder platforms within different levels of regional, national and sub-national work and between international, governmental and non-governmental actors to address the multidimensional challenges of climate security.
- 2. Mainstream a gender lens in programming** not only as a component of projects but throughout the programming on climate action and climate security, ensuring the inclusivity of most vulnerable groups and sensitivity towards diverse exposure of individuals to climate and conflict impacts.
- 3. Increase the capacity of peacebuilders to address climate change issues, as well as their interaction with peace and conflict dynamics** on climate change, including concepts and terminology, as well as identifying climate-related risks to peace and security, and in turn how to address them by leveraging opportunities for synergy between peacebuilding and climate change responses.
- 4. Implement risk-informed programming along the Humanitarian Development Peace nexus** through integrated approaches of humanitarian, development and peace programming to respond to the compounding challenges within conflict-affected areas exposed to climate impacts.
- 5. Ensure conflict-sensitivity to climate action and climate finance** to avoid maladaptation and mal-mitigation of climate action programming by adopting a peace-positive approach, aiming at co-benefits of climate resilience and social cohesion, and ensuring that catalytic climate finance is channelled into conflict-affected areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COP28

- 1. Ensure conflict sensitivity in mineral extraction activities of rare earths** to avoid conflict and human security risks.
- 2. Conflict-sensitive climate policy formulation and implementation that coordinates** national approaches to climate security risks.
- 3. Recognize local-level solutions and community voices in decision-making to ensure** localized solutions to respond to specific challenges communities are facing through climate events.

Context

The recommendations proffered are based on deliberation from a multistakeholder workshop titled “Towards a Common Vision of Climate, Peace, Security and Migration” held in Maputo on the 20th and 21st of September 2023 that was co-convened by the CGIAR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Land and Environment, the Belgian

Embassy, the Swiss Embassy and UNHCR. The workshop was attended by donors, CSOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and government departments. It sought to understand how stressors and shocks related to the increasing co-occurrence of climate change, conflict, displacement and fragility in Mozambique interact and reinforce each other to shape peace and security

outcomes. The need for advancing a responsive and evidence-based approach to these compounding challenges has been stressed by the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations (UN), ranking the climate, peace, and security agenda as one of the top priorities of the Mozambique non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Workshop takeaways

Climate and displacement-related peace and security pathways

Based on initial research by the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security team, which was discussed in working groups during the workshop, four main pathways were identified, outlining the possible dynamics of interaction between climate and displacement-related risks

and peace and security dynamics in Mozambique. These climate security pathways were as below.

Although these pathways intersect in many ways, it is evident that each pathway contains a set of overlapping and unique drivers that help us understand the climate security

landscape. Key underlying drivers and elements relevant to each pathway were identified through collaboration and discussion across sectors, building the evidence base of the current and foreseen climate-related risks to peace and security in Mozambique.

CLIMATE SECURITY PATHWAYS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Resource Availability and Access:

Climate variability impacts the availability and access to resources. Changes in resources such as land, water and fish contribute to competition and affect local power relations. Weak governance of natural resources increases the risk of conflict.

Livelihood and Food Insecurity:

Climate change adversely impacts agricultural production and eroding rural livelihoods. Losing livelihoods induces poverty, inequality and food insecurity, inflaming instability, livelihood-related grievances and conflicts.

Disaster and Conflict Displacement:

Climate and conflict dynamics interlink with displacement in complex, dynamic and non-linear ways. Climatic and social stressors intersect with livelihood and resource fragility, which affect the security and spatial and temporal realities of displaced communities.

Negative Social Behaviour:

Climate change interacts with conflict dynamics and ongoing hostilities, impacting social tensions and negative social behaviours, including the strategies and tactics of armed groups. Negative social behaviour due to climate-related grievances damages social cohesion and increases the risk of tension and conflict.

Main findings

Responding to the compounded challenges posed by the intersecting impacts of climate change with conflict and peace dynamics would only be possible by building a strong evidence base, as well as overcoming some of the constraints faced by the humanitarian, development, and peace community. These two broader topics were addressed during the workshop and the key takeaways emerging from the discussions are presented below. These key takeaways are the basis of the recommendations proffered for the UNSC and COP28.

- Climate change's impacts on food, land and water systems interact with causes and drivers of conflict to increase insecurity and violence:** Nearly all agriculture in the country consists of small-scale rainfed farming, the livelihoods and food security of rural households are highly susceptible to climate and extreme weather events. This, combined with land grabbing, displacement dynamics and the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, affects access to and availability of land. Maladaptive behaviour of most vulnerable groups is contributing to environmental degradation (e.g., deforestation), as well as recruitment into armed groups of marginalized people with grievances against the state.
- Climate extreme events occurring in fragile and conflict-affected areas are compounding conflict dynamics, with devastating effects on human security.** After impacts of Cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2019, the humanitarian situation in northern Cabo Delgado severely worsened, due to the compounding impacts of conflict and disaster. The subsequent food and livelihood insecurity contributed to violence in the aftermath of the cyclone. One reason being that disrupted humanitarian assistance after cyclones in conflict-affected areas provide an opportunity for armed insurgents group to gain ground and support among vulnerable populations.
- The risks of disaster-induced displacement and conflict dynamics mutually reinforce each other over short, as well as long term effects, that need to be considered in resettlement projects.** Displaced populations are among the most vulnerable towards climate impacts of slow onset and extreme events on the areas they are staying, as well as the routes they are taking. Although host communities have often been welcoming, the increasing influx of people, as well as further climate impacts on the natural resource base, has increased social tensions and competition with IDP populations.
- While gender and cultural identity shape the power and capacity of different social groups to adapt and respond to climate and conflict-related shocks and crises, such a lens has yet to be meaningfully integrated into policies and interventions.** Discussions around the topic reduce gender to women, lacking a holistic approach to understanding both men's and women's experiences of and needs in displacement and crisis times. Although driven by historic gender imbalances, caution must be taken to avoid further skewing the scales at the expense of men and the boy child.
- Mineral extraction of rare earths can have negative impacts on local communities, contributing to displacement through evictions, as well as insecurity by increasing grievances.** The extraction of rare earth within mines of resource-rich Cabo Delgado has altered land use changes that affect vegetation and local livelihoods. Flawed governance and evictions are thereby compounding conflict dynamics in the area. Moreover, emerging climate-smart land politics with biofuel projects, like in Massingir, have also contributed to inter-community conflicts over scarce resources.
- More localized data on the current and future impacts of climate change on food, land and water systems are needed to inform the design and implementation of preventive and anticipatory action measures based on worst-case scenarios.** There is a lack of harmonised tools for research and coordination and communication of findings in Mozambique. Ministries and non-governmental organization are working with outdated climate data that poses challenges to their response in climate action programming directed to increase the resilience of communities. The level of early warning systems crucially dictates the impacts extreme events have on exposed communities. Communities in areas of Mozambique prone to cyclones had been relatively well prepared, but recent cyclones affected new areas of the country, hitting unprepared communities.
- Working in silos and compartmentalising efforts, finances and interventions to address problems of climate, climate and development often prevent more holistic and integrated solutions.** In most instances, actors with the HDP nexus pioneer interventions that take siloed and uncoordinated approaches where projects address narrow elements of a complex system of vulnerability and challenges, significantly reducing their potential impact. Limited understanding of diverse needs and contextual dynamics can lead to conflict-insensitive humanitarian and development responses. There is a general lack of data on issues related to climate change, peace, security, forced displacement, migration and response to the impacts of climate change on the HDP nexus. Thus, researchers and research institutions should work towards generating robust and holistic data that will deepen the understanding of the phenomenon of climate change and its compounding effects on social cohesion and stability and inform programming along the HDP nexus.

