Environment-Fragility-Peace Nexus Collaborative Learning Project: *Equipping effective action in the most complex contexts*

Around the world, there is increased awareness that climate change is presenting communities and the aid sector with a radically new operational environment, in which complex, cascading crises are becoming the new norm. Of the 971 million people living in regions with a high vulnerability to climate change, 41% reside in nations highly affected by conflict. Lagging action on mitigation and adaptation in fragile and conflict affected states traps countries in vicious cycles of increasingly severe disasters, insecurity and violence, and underdevelopment.

Integrated programming tools that connect different crises across sectors are still lacking and calls from practitioners for systemic thinking are becoming more urgent.
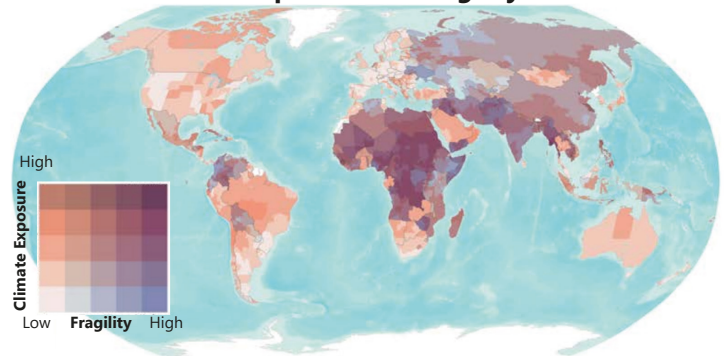
CDA is embracing complexity through socio-ecological systems thinking

A complex causality: Climate change, fragility, and peace

The interactions between climate, conflict, and fragility are increasingly well understood. Climate change can act as a "threat multiplier", aggravating existing drivers of conflict. Conflict can weaken the ability to cope with and recover from disasters. The overlap of conflict and climate change tends to worsen existing inequalities for marginalized groups, rendering them even more susceptible to harm. **Yet that's not the whole story.**

Climate exposure and fragility risks

Filling the theory-practice gap: Addressing impacts of climate, environmental change, and conflict - *together*

Flooding in Accra, Ghana. Credit: Gkbediako, June 2022 (CC BY-SA 4.0)

CDA sees a theory-practice gap in addressing environmental and conflict dynamics as interrelated and dependent. And we believe the local knowledge and lived experiences of people taking action in the face of their uncertain future are essential to addressing this gap.

We're applying our collaborative learning approach to the environment-fragility-peace nexus, learning with communities that struggle at the forefront of, yet thrive in the face of, crisis. We're building evidence-based tools that integrate local knowledge and capacities for resilience.

CDA's vision is for these partnerships to equip effective action in the most complex environments today and in the critical decades to come.

Global research, local impact: Where are we learning so far?

Diana Campos

N. California, USA
with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe

Taylor Spicer (CC BY 2.0)

Ghana
with Chemonics International

ILRI/Geoffrey Njenga (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Kenya & Ethiopia
with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and HODI Africa

Siad Darwish

Fiji
with Conciliation Resources and the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding

CASE STUDIES

▼ Completed
▼ In Process
▼ Scoping
▼ Potential

USA
COLOMBIA
PERU
LEBANON
BURKINA FASO
NIGERIA
GHANA
KENYA & ETHIOPIA
FIJI

Funding partnership with Robert Bosch Stiftung

Practical tools for the complexities of environmental vulnerability and conflict analysis, fit for purpose

Building on thirty years of research and through the initial case studies in this project, **CDA has developed a unique systems-based tool that, according to our partners across the world, demonstrates the complexity and interconnectedness of different vulnerabilities exceedingly well.**

Alongside our partners, we're creating practical tools and guidance to analyze and address environmental impact and conflict simultaneously for use in strategy, project and policy design, adaptation, and learning.

Emergent themes: Rural-urban migration, local knowledge, Indigenous rights and sovereignty, natural resource degradation, land governance, resource competition, social cohesion

Want to get involved?

Thought leadership in 2023

- **CDA at COP28:** At this first UN conference to prioritize climate-conflict dynamics, we teamed with UNDP and Mediators Beyond Borders on sessions sharing climate-peace-security assessment approaches and South-South collaboration.

- ***Development in Practice* special issue on conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm:** CDA colleagues, and founder Mary Anderson, published peer-reviewed research on systems thinking in support of locally-led environmental peacebuilding.

Share your Thoughts   **Partner with Us**   **Invest in this Work**

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Visit: www.cdacollaborative.org/cdaproject/environment-fragility-peace

Learn more about CDA and what we're passionate about