



Climate Insecurity Impacts on Children and Armed Conflict

A Discussion Paper



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



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Contact Details:

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
United Nations Secretariat
New York, NY 10017, USA
<http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org>

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Preface

In recent years, the impact of climate change in conflict-affected countries has emerged as a critical concern. However, concrete insights into how the climate crisis specifically exacerbates risks and violations against children, particularly those in armed conflict, remain underexplored. This gap highlights the need for a focused examination of the climate-conflict nexus, especially regarding its impact on children.

Climate change has profound implications for individuals in conflict settings. The cascading effects of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation coupled with extreme weather events, poverty and negative coping mechanisms amplify the hardships faced by children in situations of armed conflict. Far from being passive victims, their fundamental rights, lives, and futures are being acutely and detrimentally affected.

This exploratory study aims to create a foundational understanding of the interplay between climate-induced factors and armed conflict, and how this interaction shapes the experiences and challenges faced by children, particularly in relation to the six recognized grave violations. While this paper is non-exhaustive, it seeks to initiate broader discourse and research, paving the way for future in-depth investigation and action in this critical area. Our goal is to encourage a deeper and more comprehensive investigation into these complex dynamics, contributing to more effective strategies for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change on children in conflict zones.

I extend sincere gratitude to Ms. Dragica Mikavica for leading this research, and to UNICEF, the CTFMRs, interview participants, and the Resident Coordinator Office in Mozambique. Their collective input has been crucial in enriching our understanding of this complex issue.

As we move forward, I welcome future in-depth research to enhance our grasp of the causes and patterns of these violations, especially how climate change makes children more susceptible to specific risks given that such knowledge is key to creating targeted, long-term responses and support for those impacted. The evolving dynamics of climate change may necessitate a recalibration of our approach to children and armed conflict and the need to incorporate a climate perspective in monitoring and reporting violations against conflict-affected children. I welcome such conversations to strengthen the protection and support for children affected by armed conflict.



Virginia Gamba

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAAC	Children and Armed Conflict
CAAFAG	Children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups
CSM	Climate Security Mechanism
CTFMR	Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting
DPO	UN Department of Peace Operations
DPPA	UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KII	Key Informant Interview
MEAC	Managing Exits from Armed Conflict
MIRA	Multi-Sector/Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	New People's Army
NUPI	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSRSG CAAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
SCWG CAAC	Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict
SIPRI	Stockholm Peace Research Institute
SRSR VAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
WFP	World Food Programme



Executive Summary

In recent years, there is a growing understanding by the international community and academia that conflict and climate intersect, impacting human security. The United Nations (UN) Security Council has increasingly taken up this issue as a matter of international peace and security. Simultaneously, since 1999, this same body has considered protection and children and armed conflict as key to upholding international peace and security, consistently examining, and addressing challenges related to the protection of children in situations of armed conflict and the prevention of the grave violations against them.

This paper seeks to situate the UN's Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Agenda within the growing Climate, Peace, and Security discussions. Through secondary data and primary research conducted with Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMRs) on the six grave violations as well as experts from the UN, think tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the paper confirms an existing gap in understanding of the linkages between climate insecurity and the overall impacts on children affected by armed conflict as a specific group of rights holders. This research specifically explores the impacts of climate insecurity on the six grave violations against children monitored through the CAAC Agenda, namely, the recruitment and use of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction, and the denial of humanitarian access.

The paper posits that the increasing frequency and severity of weather-related events, exacerbated by a global temperature rise, compound the existing risks and vulnerabilities faced by children living in conflict situations that are on the CAAC Agenda. Based on the findings of this exploratory research, these connections are particularly manifested through linkages with the recruitment and use of children and the denial of humanitarian access. With the collected research, the paper charts a path forward, aiming to contextualize CAAC within the Climate, Peace, and Security domain by illustrating the interactions between climate and conflict in the context of CAAC and addressing existing challenges that hinder such efforts. It is intended to inspire discussions between policy makers and practitioners working at the intersection of climate, conflict, child rights and child protection to encourage meaningful discussions and potential actions to be taken forward in the near term.

Definitions and Methodology

For the purposes of this research, the following definitions were used based on the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Strata Glossary:¹

- ▶ **Human security:** captures the state of people's welfare, including economic, food, health, environmental, personal (protection from violence including conflict), community and political security.
- ▶ **Insecurity:** Opposite of security, where there are negative impacts on human security (as it is defined above).
- ▶ **Climate insecurity:** when those impacts on human security (whether economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, or political) are caused by changes in the climate.
- ▶ **Stress(or):** A natural or human-induced event (slow-onset or rapid-onset), trend or physical impact that may cause adverse effects to human security or the environment or strain a system such as a local community or a state. (Also referred to as a "hazard").

The UN's CAAC Agenda advocates for a universal application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,² recognizing all persons under 18 years as children who are entitled to a wide range of human rights applicable to all children. It underscores the special protections afforded to children and emphasizes that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them.

This discussion paper is an initial exploration of the ways in which climate-related stressors and conflict interact, thereby impacting children affected by armed conflict as a distinct group.

Desk-based research, conducted between August 2022 and October 2023, was complemented by virtual primary data collection between January and February 2022 and a field research mission to Mozambique in December 2022. To study the interactions between conflict and climate, the research for this paper considered the following situations currently on the UN's CAAC Agenda: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia, and the Syrian Arab Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Syria"). These situations were selected as a cross-regional study of areas impacted by both climate insecurity and conflict. In application of qualitative research methodology, this research included:

1 See United Nations Environment Programme. *Strata – Glossary. Version 2*, September 2022. Available at: <https://unepstrata.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/STRATA-Glossary-v2-September-2022.pdf>.

2 United Nations. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, 20 November 1989, A/RES/44/25. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.



- ▶ **Review of existing literature**, encompassing reports (such as the UN Secretary-General's thematic and country-specific reports), briefings, webinars to understand the interplay between climate change and conflict, as well as the presence or absence of analysis concerning the consequences for children affected by armed conflict.
- ▶ **Key informant interviews** (KII) to assess the influence of climate-related stressors on conflict dynamics and children, to identify tools used for climate-related analysis, and to formulate recommendations to improve understanding of climate insecurity's impact on children in armed conflict. Interviews were conducted with:
 - ▶ **34 experts in research think tanks, international NGOs and country-based NGOs**, working within the areas of climate change, conflict and children and armed conflict.
 - ▶ **15 technical-level CTFMR focal points** in seven field locations.
 - ▶ **5 representatives** from the Mozambique National Institute of Disaster Management and Ministry of Welfare.
- ▶ **Focus Group Discussions (FGD)** in Mozambique to gain an understanding of the children's and communities' experiences and perspectives on how the conflict and climate-related stressors have impacted their lives. The first FGD engaged 16 adolescents (boys and girls) aged 12-18 who have experienced internal displacement, some of whom were children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG). A second FGD engaged 20 adult participants (men and women) who have experienced internal displacement as a result of the conflict and cyclones or both.
- ▶ **Meeting with 10 representatives** of the UN Country Team hosted by the Resident Coordinator Office, to gain an overview of the challenges in Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique to understand the linkages between climate insecurity and conflict from a humanitarian perspective.

The research had the following limitations:


- ▶ As an exploratory exercise, the discussion paper is non-exhaustive and intends to open doors for further inquiry.
- ▶ The research for this paper sought to highlight the experience of girls and children with disabilities in the context of CAAC and climate insecurity. However, given the lack of data disaggregation, the research could not source enough on gender and disability as factors as it wished to do. Despite this, the paper acknowledges that children with disabilities and girls are some of the most vulnerable groups and should be specifically considered to account for their differentiated experiences and needs going forward, thereby recommending this as an area of further inquiry.



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I.

Introduction



Following the 1996 publication of the seminal report on the impact of armed conflict on children prepared by Graça Machel,³ the UN General Assembly (UNGA) created the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) through resolution 51/77.⁴ While the mandate derives from the UNGA, the UN Security Council took CAAC as a matter of international peace and security in 1999 with the passage of its resolution 1261⁵ in which it condemned the practices referred to as the six grave violations against children in armed conflict settings. These are recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access for children. Apart from the denial of humanitarian access, these violations act as triggers for the inclusion of parties to conflict in the annexes to the annual reports of the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. This listing occurs based on an intricate framework whereby the UN collects accurate, timely, objective, and reliable information on violations and shares this data through the Secretary-General's reporting at the highest levels.

Resolution 1261 (1999) prioritizes the protection, welfare, and rights of children in efforts to promote peace and security. Since then, the Council has expanded on this mandate through twelve subsequent resolutions.⁶ Resolution 1612 (2005) notably established the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG CAAC) along with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). The SCWG CAAC is a subsidiary body that considers information from the UN Secretary-General's reporting on the six grave violations as well as military use of schools and the detention of children gathered through the MRM in situations on the CAAC Agenda. The SCWG CAAC adopts conclusions containing recommendations to parties listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's reports to be taken up on the ground.

To inform the work of the UN Security Council and SCWG CAAC, the OSRSG CAAC engages in a coordinated manner with the UN-led CTFMRs and their equivalents in non-MRM situations on the ground. CTFMRs engage parties to conflict in dialogue, including for the preparation and implementation of action plans and other forms of commitment by parties to conflict to end and prevent grave violations against children, as well as the monitoring of their implementation.

Owing to the efforts of Member States, the UN, including OSRSG CAAC, UNICEF, the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), and civil society partners, the first 27 years of the mandate's

3 United Nations. Impact of Armed Conflict on Children: Report of the Expert of the Secretary-General, Ms. Graça Machel, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157, 1996, A/51/306. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/51/306>.

4 United Nations. General Assembly resolution 51/77 (1997), A/RES/51/77. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/51/77>.

5 United Nations. Security Council resolution 1261 (1999), S/RES/1261. Available at: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1261\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1261(1999))

6 Security Council Resolutions on CAAC: 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014), 2225 (2015), 2427 (2018), and 2601 (2021).

implementation have borne concrete results for children in situations of armed conflict that include the release of over 200,000 children from armed forces and armed groups and their reintegration into society, as well as signature of over 40 joint action plans and other commitments between the United Nations and parties to conflict, among many other achievements. In its “Study on the evolution of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate 1996-2021” when taking stock of the results achieved to date, the OSRSG CAAC identified opportunities and risks in engaging with parties to conflict in order to improve the protection of children and prevent grave violations against children from occurring in the first place.⁷ The aggravating role of climate change emerged as an area of concern requiring further attention in the next phase of the mandate’s implementation. A question was raised on how to align efforts aimed at ending and preventing grave violations against children with overarching global trends indicative of political tensions and potential conflicts. Notably, the inquiry delves into the impact of the climate emergency, which adversely affects resources and livelihoods.

More formally, in her 2022 report to the Human Rights Council,⁸ the SRSG CAAC stressed the significance of recognizing the unique needs of conflict-affected children in discussions involving increased engagement and activities on climate security by international and regional organizations. The report underscores the necessity for further research to explore the nexus between climate change and the grave violations against children in conflict-affected countries.

A. Framing Climate, Peace, and Security and Children and Armed Conflict

Climate emergency has risen to the top of the international political agenda, including to the highest levels of UN leadership. In his address to the UNGA regarding priorities for 2023, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that the climate destruction is not progressing incrementally; that wars grind on and the climate crisis burns on; and that 2023 is a year of reckoning requiring game-changing climate action and transformation.⁹ This section first explores the UN’s action on CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security, which is followed by the review of existing literature to situate CAAC within the Climate, Peace, and Security discussions.

7 OSRSG CAAC. Study on the evolution of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate 1996-2021, January 2022. Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Study-on-the-evolution-of-the-Children-and-Armed-Conflict-mandate-1996-2021.pdf>.

8 United Nations. Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to the Human Rights Council, 4 January 2022, A/HRC/49/58, para. 36. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/58>

9 The Secretary-General. Briefing to the General Assembly on Priorities for 2023, 6 February 2023. Available at: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2023-02-06/secretary-generals-briefing-the-general-assembly-priorities-for-2023-scroll-down-for-bilingual-delivered-all-english-and-all-french-versions>.

i. United Nations Action on Climate, Peace, and Security and CAAC



Many of the conflict-affected countries that the UN Security Council is currently considering on its agenda are also impacted by climate-related stressors. In 2017, the Council passed the landmark resolution 2349 on the situation in the Lake Chad basin, the first to recognize the adverse effects of climate change and ecological changes, among other factors, on the stability of the region, including water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity.¹⁰ Subsequently, the Council increased inclusion of language in resolutions mandating political missions and peace operations to

consider the effects of climate change, and the need for accounting for these factors in the formation of national and UN strategies regarding risk assessment and management. By recalling all CAAC resolutions, resolution 2349 links both topics into one. To date, mandates pertaining to climate exist in eleven country and regional situations, but no thematic resolution dedicated solely to the theme of Climate, Peace, and Security has been adopted at the Security Council level, although an attempt was made in late 2021 under the leadership of Ireland and Niger, elected non-Permanent Members of the Council at the time. Eleven adopted resolutions mandating UN missions to work on climate in some way also include language on children and armed conflict (see Annex I).

According to climate experts interviewed for this research, when children are mentioned by the UN Security Council Member States in Council meetings, there is often no specific link made to the impact of climate insecurity on them. If children are mentioned at all, it tends to be in a general statement implying that climate change has a disproportionately negative effect on women and children without substantiated explanation of how or why.¹¹ Additionally, children and women are often mentioned together, which results in conflation of their different vulnerabilities and status that impedes upon designing differentiated solutions to their needs.

10 United Nations. Security Council resolution 2349 (2017), S/RES/2349. Available at: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349(2017)).

11 Key informant interview (Security Council Report, 25 January 2023)

Simultaneously, structures are being created to support the implementation of these Security Council mandates to address climate related aspects of the resolutions. To date, however, these structures have omitted making direct connections with the CAAC Agenda, therefore a scope exists for integration of children and armed conflict concerns into them.

In 2018, the Climate Security Mechanism was established as a joint initiative between DPPA, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, later joined by DPO, which seeks to support the UN system to address climate-related security risks more systematically.¹² In its analysis, the CSM strives to consider thematic issues, such as gender, however, the absence of a concrete policy framework for establishing a robust reporting system and the lack of a foundational system-wide conflict assessment tool have limited its capacity to provide information. As such, the CSM has faced challenges in layering impacts of these risks on particular groups such as children in its analysis.¹³ The CSM has acquired a narrow understanding of potential risks to children through its analysis on gender (for example, witnessing increased rates of child marriage in Bangladesh and Sub-Saharan Africa), although no substantiated knowledge has been derived on children from its work thus far.¹⁴ The CSM also provides trainings and deploys climate security advisers to the abovementioned UN-mandated missions. Certain missions where advisers are deployed also have dedicated child protection advisers. However, primary research collected for this paper reveals that in locations where both advisers were appointed, they either remain unaware of each other or have yet to collaborate at the field level.¹⁵ In addition to advisers in UN field missions, the CSM also supports the deployment of Climate, Peace, and Security advisers/experts in (sub) regional organizations from the Global South, namely the League of Arab States, the Liptako Gourma Authority, and the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

The United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) "Children's Climate Security Risk Index" published in August 2021 singles out displacement as a concern. It notes that as hazards intensify and occur more frequently due to environmental changes, climate-induced displacement increases rapidly. Additionally, in some cases, climate change plays a role in conflict-related displacement, particularly in situations where conflict erupts over competition for scarce or dwindling natural resources caused by climate change.¹⁶ While this index only cursorily mentions conflict in several instances, the "Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change" produced in July 2022 by UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), elaborates on the various risk dimensions to


12 See United Nations Environment Programme. Climate Security Mechanism. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/disasters-conflicts/what-we-do/disaster-risk-reduction/climate-security-mechanism>.

13 Key informant interview (Climate Security Mechanism, 18 January 2023)

14 Ibid.

15 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Somalia, 14 February 2023)

16 UNICEF. The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, August 2021. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/unicef-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis.pdf>.



the movement of children in the context of climate change.¹⁷ Firstly, they state that violations of children's rights can occur at the time of a slow or sudden-onset hazard or event, during movement and/or after reaching their destinations; that children moving in the context of climate change risk losing connections to social networks and often family members, and have difficulty accessing education, health care, and social services, including social protection systems.¹⁸ In turn, these children's lack of access to social services negatively impacts their resilience and ability to cope with the effects of climate change. These risks further increase when children live in situations of poverty, conflict, or both.¹⁹

Secondly, they note that while the rights of children displaced by conflict and in the context of climate change should be protected, in practice it is often difficult for governments and humanitarian actors to access children and provide such assistance due to the conflict. There are also cases where children move internally in anticipation of or in response to the effects of the intersection of conflict and climate change, often in the form of rural-urban migration.²⁰ Finally, they state that multiple and protracted displacements in the context of conflict and climate change are unfortunately also common. More recently, in its September 2023 paper, "Children Displaced in a Changing Climate: preparing for a future already underway," UNICEF emphasizes that existing displacement data often lacks age disaggregation. This deficiency poses the risk of children being overlooked, especially in contexts where extreme weather events intersect with conflict, thereby hindering efforts to identify and assist children most at risk in their recovery and resilience-building against future climate challenges.²¹

In her annual report to the UN General Assembly A/77/221 published in July 2022 and focused on the impact of the climate crisis on child protection and children's well-being, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG VAC) declared that the climate crisis is acting as a threat multiplier for violence against children. The report states that, the "cumulative shocks of the climate crisis are exacerbating pre-existing crises, including the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, financial crises and armed conflicts, and aggravating risk factors for experiencing violence, abuse and exploitation, such as poverty, economic and social inequalities, food insecurity and forced displacement."²² In consultations the Office of the SRSG VAC conducted with children in Asia, Africa and other regions for its advocacy brief, "The Climate Crisis and Violence against Children" published in October 2022, children highlighted the repercussions on their

17 UNICEF, IOM, Georgetown University, Institute for the Study of International Migration, United Nations University, and Center for Policy Research. Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change, July 2022. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/media/2796/file/UNICEF-Global-Insight-Guiding-Principles-for-children-on-the-move-in-the-context-of-climate-change-2022.pdf>.

18 Ibid, 18.

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid, 40.

21 UNICEF. Children Displaced in a Changing Climate: preparing for a future already underway, September 2023. Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/media/145951/file/Climate%20displacement%20report%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/145951/file/Climate%20displacement%20report%20(English).pdf).

22 United Nations. Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, July 2022, A/77/221, p. 11. Available at: <https://undocs.org/A/77/221>.



livelihoods and families, who were forced to seek alternative coping strategies during climate disasters. Furthermore, the negative impact of climate change on farmers, herders, and fishers, and tensions between pastoralists and farmers have been increasingly instrumentalized by armed groups and traffickers that have exploited this situation to their advantage targeting children.²³

Furthermore, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)'s longitudinal research project Managing Exits from Armed Conflict (MEAC) is

currently collecting evidence on how and why individuals, including those under 18 years old, become associated with armed groups and later exit armed conflict. The goal of this project is to gather evidence to inform prevention and reintegration programming, and thus improve outcomes for conflict-affected populations and ultimately build peace.²⁴ Through a multi-method approach, including holistic surveys which delve on the pre-recruitment life of a respondent and reasons for becoming involved with their armed group, combined with similar data for their unaffiliated peers, the project has uncovered some of the first empirical evidence that climate-related factors, such as climate-change related livelihood challenges, significantly impact the adults' and in some cases, their children's, involvement with armed groups.²⁵ MEAC research found that in the region around the Lake Chad basin, climate-related difficulties in farming, herding, or fishing have been experienced and/or witnessed by about half of the population in Cameroon and Chad (less in Niger and Nigeria).²⁶ Furthermore, significant portions of ex-associates who experienced these difficulties said climate-related livelihood challenges were among the reasons that led them to becoming involved with the non-State armed group Boko Haram or its factions.²⁷ The research highlights the vulnerability of the populations living around the Lake Chad basin to climate shifts and shocks, which impact adults and children, and the real concerns of armed groups taking advantage of such vulnerabilities.

23 Key informant interview (OSRSG VAC, 9 March 2023); OSRSG VAC. The climate crisis and violence against children, October 2022. Available at: <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/the-climate-crisis-and-violence-against-children.pdf>.

24 UNIDIR. Managing Exits from Armed Conflict. Available at: <https://unidir.org/programme/managing-exits-from-armed-conflict/>.

25 UNIDIR and United Nations University. MEAC Lake Chad Basin Case Study Report: Preventing Recruitment and Ensuring Effective Reintegration Efforts: Evidence from Across the Lake Chad Basin to Inform Policy and Practice, November 2022, p 5. Available at: https://unidir.org/files/2023-01/LCBCFinal_EN.pdf.

26 Ibid, 6.

27 Ibid.

ii. Literature Review

Literature based on both qualitative and quantitative research that addresses the link between conflict and fragility and climate change has been growing over the past two decades.²⁸ Initially, this literature focused on the competition for scarce resources, often also referred to as ‘resource wars’ during the 1990s. Later on, in the 2010s, it started to shift its focus towards addressing climate change as a threat multiplier that exacerbates existing conflict risks and dynamics, including threats to governance and other socio-political factors, as well as human security and governance challenges.²⁹ While literature points to varying results in drawing the connection, there is seemingly, at a minimum, a consensus that climate change impacts interact with other socio-political, economic and environmental drivers of conflict to exacerbate existing security risks.³⁰ Nonetheless, research conducted for this paper confirms that it is very rare to obtain analysis within existing literature on how children are impacted by the consequences of this interaction. Furthermore, most existing data within the context of climate and security is disaggregated by gender rather than age.³¹

At present, several leading research institutions are developing and producing climate insecurity assessments to inform the UN Security Council’s work on climate, peace, and security. However, these are unable to specifically account for children as a group given a gap in their mandates and expertise. For instance, Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), both interviewed for this research, produce periodic factsheets on specific countries on the UN Security Council’s agenda to provide an overarching snapshot on climate security.³² Through these, they have pointed out, in general terms, risks for children and specifically girls, including in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Colombia, Central African Republic, Mali, Iraq, Sudan, and Ethiopia.³³ These are all countries on the UN’s CAAC Agenda. To illustrate, in its May 2022 Climate, Peace, and Security Fact Sheet on South Sudan, they noted based on the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry 2021 data that, “traditional gender roles mean that men and boys move with livestock, explore migratory adaptation options or join armed groups or raiding parties, while female-led households, as well as women and girls, are particularly exposed to climate impacts because of land tenure insecurity that limits their capacities to respond to climate change.”³⁴

28 Climate Insecurity Expert Network adelphi, Climate-Fragility Research Paper: The Climate Change-Conflict Connection, the Current State of Knowledge, 12 November 2019. Available at: https://climate-diplomacy.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/CSEN%20Research%20Paper%20-%20The%20Climate%20Change-Conflict%20Connection_The%20Current%20State%20of%20Knowledge.pdf

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

31 Key informant interview (adelphi, 27 January 2023)

32 Key informant interview (SIPRI, 23 January 2023)

33 NUPI and SIPRI. Climate-related Peace and Security Risks (CPSR) project, Fact sheets. Available at: <https://www.nupi.no/en/projects-centers/climate-related-peace-and-security-risks/fact-sheets-and-appendices>.

34 NUPI and SIPRI. Climate, Peace and Security Fact Sheet South Sudan, March 2022, p. 4. Available at: https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/220422%20NUPI%20Fact%20Sheet%20South%20Sudan_FactChange%20LR2.pdf

In the current literature that points to climate change as a threat multiplier and spells out pathways for risk, mobility and livelihoods are often addressed as reactions to the disruptions and pressures caused by weather events on populations, playing into decisions and actions of communities and societies.³⁵ For instance, those whose food, water or livelihood is threatened opt for adapting livelihoods or choose to move or are displaced, giving way to mobility as a major risk due to the disruption of established support networks which are crucial for resiliency.³⁶ Livelihoods, food insecurity and mobility therefore have an impact on individuals, households, communities, and societies. Natural resource management dimensions are also cited to have links with security, and in particular, food security, as conflict or other disruptions pressure communities on the use and management of rivers or wells for instance, noting that control may change between communities and the cultural ways in which rivers and wells are managed may come into play in the longer-term.³⁷

Overall, the risks explained through literature focus on food, health and water security, or issues related to displacement of populations, including children. In the short-term, research touches on the immediate impacts on children in the form of health risks, such as diarrhea as an outcome of flooding, as well as higher malnutrition and child mortality rates, particularly in areas with less agricultural production and fragile public health systems.³⁸ The latest annual report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states there is high likelihood of the health and climate-related malnutrition, in particular maternal malnutrition and child undernutrition, in face of low levels of adaption.³⁹

Literature also addresses humanitarian impacts of climate change as conflict- and climate-affected countries tend to be common in contexts where humanitarian actors operate. In its paper, “Climate Change and Humanitarian Action 2021,” ADAPT Initiative states that over two thirds of the countries experiencing conflict in 2021, including three of the five largest humanitarian crises, are among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change according to the ND Gain index.⁴⁰ It further explains that the inability to access people in need is a result of insecurity and conflict, a particular concern given the relationship between climate-related crises and conflict outlined above, while in others, the constraints are physical such as roads and airstrips can be washed away by flooding. ADAPT Initiative’s paper points out that internally displaced people are especially prone to being overlooked when it comes to receiving assistance, particularly when they move to urban environments and are ‘hard

35 Key informant interview (NUPI, 9 February 2023)


36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 Key informant interview (ADAPT, 20 January 2023)

39 IPCC. Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2023, p. 184. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf

40 ADAPT Initiative. Climate Change and Humanitarian Action, 2021. Available at: https://adaptinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ADAPT-Climate-Change-Humanitarian-Action-2021_with_links.pdf



[for humanitarian agencies] to identify'. Lastly, ADAPT Initiative points out that conflicts discourage external donors from investing in programs aimed at reducing risk from climate change which thereby reduces access to services for vulnerable populations reducing their resilience to climate-related stressors in turn.⁴¹ This is because conflict-affected countries tend to spend less on social services and may not be able to provide these in areas outside of their control, while affected populations, including children, have disrupted livelihoods and fewer assets rendering them vulnerable to climate-related stressors. This is further compounded by the fact that external donors do not invest in conflict-affected States and therefore children are doubly impacted by lack of international support on top of lacking government services. Their report does not specifically address children as a group.

This scoping review of literature and interviews with experts that address conflict, fragility and climate in tandem confirm an existing gap with respect to having an in-depth understanding of the specific impacts on children affected by armed conflict as a distinct group. Most helpful to date is the area of study of how displacement, deemed as a pathway, drives possible risks and vulnerabilities to children, but more must be done to account for children affected by armed conflict in literature and research.

As this framing section demonstrates, there is vast space to bridge the gap in literature and the distance between the CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security agendas of the UN Security Council. The following section offers the first insight into analysis of climate-related impacts on the six grave violations to begin addressing this gap.


41 Ibid, 10.



UNICEF/UNI423593/Sokhin

II.

The Impact of Climate Insecurity on Children Affected by Armed Conflict



Climate-related stressors create implications for the upholding of children's rights in situations considered for the primary research. This is primarily viewed through the lens of the risks associated with recruitment and use of children and the denial of humanitarian access, which are two of the six grave violations most impacted by climate change. The following section explores the interactions across these two grave violations, through examples from six of the cited situations and a case study based on field-based research in Mozambique. It then references findings regarding other grave violations with scope for further examination.

A. Recruitment and Use of Children and Climate Insecurity

Some situations on the CAAC Agenda exemplify particular impact of climate insecurity on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict situations, such as in Burkina Faso, where climactic stressors have exacerbated the conflict context, rendering entire families highly vulnerable due to the drought-induced water and cultivable land scarcity. Additionally, drought and heavy flooding have resulted in observable crop and livestock losses, housing destruction, and disease outbreaks.⁴² Furthermore, poverty stemming from climactic shocks has triggered additional risks to families. For example, when water sources dry up due to drought, children who traditionally help fetch water are forced to cover longer distances, increasing their exposure to violence, early marriage, and notably, abduction and recruitment by armed groups.⁴³ The UN team has observed these climactic shifts over the last decade during their work in this area.

In Ethiopia, the Somali region is dependent on a pastoralist way of life and livestock remains a main pillar of their livelihoods. Here, some pastoralists have armed themselves with AK-47 weapons, observably to protect their own livestock.⁴⁴ In one region, it is reported that in 2022, 128 boys between the ages of 15 and 17 were trained and asked to join these pastoralist clan groups.⁴⁵ As of May 2022, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data, livelihood damage caused by drought resulted in the displacement of more than 280,000 people from the Somali and Oromiya regions. This drought was one of the most extreme in the last four years and the emergency has prompted the UN to maintain its focus on these regions. In Somali, pastureland problems derive from the delays in the rainfall that have continued into 2023.⁴⁶

In Myanmar, it was noted that depending on the season, the use of children in agricultural work by the Myanmar Armed Forces increased.⁴⁷

42 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Burkina Faso, 15 January 2023)

43 Ibid.

44 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Ethiopia, 17 January 2023)

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.

47 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Myanmar, 9 January 2023)

In Somalia, the majority of the UN documented grave violations against children are in drought response areas controlled by a non-State armed group Al-Shabaab.⁴⁸ In an interview with the UN, a child whose family lost their livelihood made a very clear point that they want to join Al-Shabaab to find an alternative source of income.⁴⁹ The UN has observed an increase in inter-clan conflict related to access to resources in the Galmudug region as well. In situations where drought is weakening the economic situation of a family who has lost all source of income, children have been noted to join Al-Shabaab.⁵⁰ Sometimes Al-Shabaab targets areas most affected by the drought and where people due to multiple vulnerabilities have the least ability to resist and is also known to target elders refusing to give up the children.⁵¹ In areas where Al-Shabaab is losing territory to the army, it has been reported that during their retreat from villages and other locations, the group is allegedly systematically destroying water points (bore holes). This action is believed to be a reprisal against government supporting communities, and it reflects the armed group's recognition that water has become a critical resource due to the ongoing drought situation.⁵²

Regarding children and armed conflict concerns in North and East Syria, reports of circumstances indicate instances of children and adults joining, and even re-joining armed forces or armed groups with the contributing factor of the need for income.⁵³ For some, lack of income and other resources is linked to the hyper poverty⁵⁴ and the inability of their families and communities to productively cultivate the land.⁵⁵ In the words of one research participant, “resilience is so bottomed out that their [former CAAFAG] best choice is to join an armed group.”⁵⁶ While so far, no direct linkages were made between climate change and the grave violations, in Syria, it is observed that climate change is contributing to reduced opportunities for CAAFAG. Conditions and constraints reportedly exacerbated by climate change, and other factors, impedes the ability for humanitarian actors to extend the provision of key supports and services across sectors to especially underserved and affected communities such as those affected by conflict and climate. Noting also, explosive remnants of war ordnance is a significant cause of killing and maiming of children, with an estimated 100,000 – 300,000 unexploded ordnances scattered across residential and agricultural lands. The UN has documented cases of children losing their lives due to these explosive devices, including some incidents occurring within schools or on their way to receive an education. An example is the situation in the South of Daraa where approximately twenty children lost their lives in a single explosion.⁵⁷ On the programmatic side, one research participant explained that NGOs

48 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Somalia, 14 February 2023)

49 Ibid.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.

52 Ibid.


53 Key information interview (CTFMR in Syria, 16 January 2023)

54 OCHA. Humanitarian Needs Overview Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022. p 90. Available at: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/hno_2023-rev-1.12_1.pdf

55 Key information interview (CTFMR in Syria, 16 January 2023)

56 Ibid.

57 Ibid.



at the field level are highly motivated to develop, coordinate and facilitate key supports and services across sectors to ensure appropriate alternatives for children under 18 joining armed forces or armed groups. On the programmatic side, one research participant explained Syria's water levels are lower than historically recorded⁵⁸ and there exists a clear interaction between the natural environment and conflict, which in turn has implications for grave violations.⁵⁹

These examples illustrate that the reduction and even loss of livelihoods resulting from climate-related stressors is impacting the decision-making of children, their families, and communities regarding whether they should join or rejoin armed groups. Additionally, climate-related stressors negatively impact an individual's ability to sustainably reintegrate upon return to their places of origin, particularly in Syria where these areas are often impacted by conflict and marked by high levels of unexploded ordnance on agricultural lands. Finally, these examples show that armed groups are at a minimum aware of the value of diminishing resources, such as water, on children, their families, and communities, and may instrumentalize this knowledge in their conduct, with further implications for those affected.

B. Denial of Humanitarian Access and Climate Insecurity

Through examples in Ethiopia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia, and Syria, research also signaled real implications for children affected by armed conflict to access humanitarian aid in the context of climate-related events that overlay the conflict context in which they are caught. In the case of Ethiopia, the widespread food insecurity and access to livelihoods has been exacerbated due to conflict, impacting the lives of children, and limiting access or mobility of humanitarian actors to priority areas to deliver aid.⁶⁰ As of October 2022, around 2.2 million children faced acute malnutrition caused by the drought, with over 760, 000 of these children being severely malnourished.⁶¹ This highlights the significance of examining the question of climate-related impacts on children affected by armed conflict. Insecurity and access related issues deem the provision of basic lifesaving child protection services, data collection, and the monitoring and assessment of humanitarian needs in hard-to-reach areas extremely challenging.⁶² In certain locations, displacement has disrupted the provision of services, compelling local communities to seek humanitarian assistance, particularly food and water, from other sources. Furthermore, movement and access were hampered by the impact of climate-induced shocks, such as flooding on infrastructure, as could be seen in the example of the Galuun bridge connecting the Dawa and Liben zones of the Somali region. The bridge often submerges during rainy seasons, blocking movement between the two zones.⁶³

58 OCHA. Humanitarian Needs Overview Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, December 2022. p 90. Available at: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/hno_2023-rev-1.12_1.pdf

59 Ibid.

60 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Ethiopia, 17 January 2023)

61 See WFP. Ethiopia Drought Response, Situation Report #5, 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/wfp-ethiopia-drought-response-situation-report-4-october-2022>.

62 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Ethiopia, 17 January 2023)

63 Ibid.

In the case of Myanmar, assistance to children is impacted during flooding, particularly in flood-prone areas such as Rakhine. Given that Myanmar in general is disaster-prone, flood-prone areas are taken into consideration in the UN's contingency planning on a systematic basis.⁶⁴ Flooded roads block access to villages, prohibiting actors from delivering aid, and in rainy areas where walking through the roads, using motorbikes, or bicycles is not feasible, rural areas become inaccessible for them. Similarly, the UN cannot conduct the monitoring and reporting of grave violations, as many

areas are unreachable due to insecurity, road conditions or network availability.⁶⁵ Thus, in the case of Myanmar, the impact is closely tied to the annual rainy season which consistently poses challenges. As a result, programming is scheduled around the seasons, with plans to transport supply kits, goods or people during the dry season. This approach has been adopted given that during the rainy season, movement is expensive or impossible.

In Rakhine state, due to already limited resources, humanitarian actors and communities must make the tough decision to choose between the provision of food versus shelter – according to a research participant, “people are living in a shack and have to go through a miserable rainy season every year as the IDP camp is below sea level. In high tide and during strong cyclone, the sea water comes into the water reserve so they cannot drink the water, which takes weeks to fix. And in some communities, they have been going through the same challenge every year because they did not have any resources to cope with.”⁶⁶ The possible future impact of more intense flooding due to climate-related stressors raises concerns about increased resource deprivation. There is an urgent need for all actors to provide lasting solutions, as the humanitarian community's capacity is limited to short-term emergency responses, and addressing displacement situations must be approached with a systematic approach.


The case of the Philippines particularly revealed different manifestations of the dynamic between the security situation and delivery of humanitarian relief operations in the aftermath of severe weather-related events.



64 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Myanmar, 9 January 2023)

65 Ibid.

66 Ibid.



Mindanao island has witnessed most common climate-induced emergencies related to flooding in the past year, particularly in BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), which also experienced two consecutive 6.9 magnitude earthquakes in 2019.⁶⁷ In Maguindanao province, the drought in 2019 affected 80 per cent of the region, calling for a state of emergency. Finally, in the last quarter of 2022, mudslides and a severe tropical storm resulted in 60 deaths with many still missing.⁶⁸ Generally in the Philippines, typhoon-related emergency risks are prevalent and in the recent aftermath of Dai, UNICEF and other child protection actors are providing timely and well-coordinated response to the government in form of humanitarian supplies and services. This includes access to primary healthcare emergency hygiene.

In such settings, it is very rare to verify grave violations in face of restricted access. In his country-specific report on children and armed conflict in the Philippines published on 21 July 2022, the Secretary-General cited two alleged attacks by the National Army of the Philippines during pre-emptive evacuations in Surigao del Sur Province and food aid distribution in Leyte Province, before and after Typhoon Rai.⁶⁹ He stated that the monitoring and verification of grave violations faced challenges due to various factors, including access restrictions caused by the volatile security situation, the remote location and inaccessibility of communities, and the implementation of the COVID-19-related community quarantine protocols that were applicable to the entire country at the time.⁷⁰ Research in the Philippines highlights incidences related to humanitarian access in the context of humanitarian response following emergencies when armed forces and security sector actors are involved in search and rescue in conflict-affected areas. In such an environment, armed actors have an opportunity to attack their opponents or even schools. Thirteen situations were observed where the natural disaster response by state security provoked armed groups to take advantage of activities on the ground.⁷¹ On Mindanao, one of the SPMS Box⁷² group of municipalities experiencing armed conflict is also flood-prone.

In the 2021 emergency review for the Philippines, Typhoon Rai was identified as one of the hazards in the country as both child protection actors and the government observed significant changes, with storms impacting Easter Mindanao, BARMM, and other areas.⁷³ While it was not possible to verify deliberate actions by armed groups to attack a school near

67 Key informant interview (CTFMR in the Philippines, 5 February 2023)

68 Ibid.

69 United Nations. Report of the Secretary-General on Children and armed conflict in the Philippines, 21 July 2022, S/2022/569. Available at: <https://undocs.org/S/2022/569>.

70 Ibid.

71 Ibid.

72 SPMS Box is a region located within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in the southern Philippines. With an estimated population of 100,000 residing in 30-40 villages in approximately 90 square kilometers, this area is known as a hotspot for persistent and recurring violence. The term "SPMS" originates from army terminology denoting the settlements of Salbu, Pagatin, Mamasapano, and Shariff Aguak. See International Crisis Group. Addressing Islamist Militancy in the Southern Philippines. Asia Report N°323, 18 March 2022. Available at: <https://icg-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/323-southern-philippines-islamist-militancy.pdf>

73 Ibid.

elements of another non-State armed group, New People's Army (NPA), during their disaster relief efforts, the situation raises concerns about potential implications for the interruption of humanitarian relief operations in conflict and disaster-prone areas for children affected by armed conflict. This is particularly manifested in the example of an attack on a school being used by persons displaced by emergencies in situations when the government is unable to provide temporary spaces, especially during typhoons or a pandemic when classes are suspended. However, the proximity of state security forces in the area rendered them a target for armed groups.⁷⁴

Furthermore, the passage of the anti-terror law led to increased military operations against the NPA and their camps located in mountainous areas. In these regions, other environmental concerns have been raised such as mining operations and logging. Additionally, the presence of these development projects has amplified the risks associated with climate-related vulnerabilities given their potential impacts on the environment.⁷⁵ There is likelihood that these areas experience armed group activity, as well as flooding, and thereby the effects of climate insecurity are shared not only by the local population but also by the armed groups operating in these regions. The UN simultaneously monitors and reports grave violations during large-scale emergency responses, making use of additional actors who enhance their capacity to implement the Security Council's CAAC mandate by monitoring and reporting grave violations. One additional risk pointed out in the case of the Philippines relief operations is possible deliberate positioning of certain groups only to deliver aid at government's discretion. It should be acknowledged that such political or security considerations may imperil children's access to humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of emergencies.⁷⁶ Relief operations should not be tempered with, especially in face of more frequent and intense tropical storms and flooding experienced by the conflict-affected areas of the Philippines. It is common that state security forces serve as first responders in the aftermath of natural disasters and use schools and hospitals as temporary shelters; however, as this example illustrates, these civilian objects can be placed at risk and could be monitored within the CAAC Agenda framework as military use of schools and hospitals. This is precisely why countries affected by natural disasters are less likely to endorse a political instrument such as the Safe Schools Declaration.⁷⁷


Interviewees in Somalia have pointed out that aid is not reaching locations that were already difficult to access due to the drought. There is also secondary data suggesting that aid diversion may be occurring, with certain communities acting as gate keepers who could be either facilitating or excluding aid delivery. In such situations, children are the most vulnerable

74 Ibid.

75 Ibid.

76 Ibid.

77 The Safe Schools Declaration an inter-governmental political commitment to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict and has been endorsed by 118 governments to date; see more here: Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. The Safe Schools Declaration. Available at: <https://ssd.protectingeducation.org/>.



as they do not benefit directly from any support.⁷⁸ Generally, for Somalia, it was noted that it is difficult for humanitarian actors to have presence on the ground to monitor the realities, therefore they only understand a partial view of the overall picture.

In Syria, research participants stressed there is a complex and challenging operational environment for providing effective and coordinated relief and aid for communities and populations with acute humanitarian needs. Further, the political constraints of access by humanitarian actors and civil society in collecting, assessing, and reporting real time, observable information is highly constrained.⁷⁹ Notably for Syria, it was observed that climate change is possibly increasing the vulnerability of communities to tactical military approaches. For instance, when a water station is situated in an area controlled by one party and a power plant is located in an area controlled by a different party, both parties to conflict may be seen to manipulate these strategic points to their advantage, often disregarding the critical needs of civilians and children to lifesaving resources in the face of drought.⁸⁰

The examples in this section signal real implications for children affected by armed conflict to access humanitarian aid in the context of climate-related events that overlay the conflict context in which they are caught. The case of the Philippines illustrates this point particularly vividly, but others demonstrate the layered manifestations of challenges to humanitarian access on the ground both for provision of services but also monitoring the situation in areas dually affected by climate and conflict emergencies.

C. Climate Insecurity and other Grave Violations

While CTFMRs begin to consider how a climate insecurity lens can inform their work, the initial and strongest findings from this exploratory research highlight the implications for the recruitment and use of children and the denial of humanitarian access. A few other examples emerged to shed some light on the extent of impact regarding other grave violations.

First, on attacks on schools and hospitals, the UN's CAAC Agenda framework includes monitoring and reporting of attacks on schools and hospitals and military use of schools in implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005). In the previous section, the case of the Philippines exemplified how schools, as protected civilian objects, may be subjected to attacks by armed groups in the aftermath of emergencies. In Ethiopia, a joint rapid needs assessment showed that health facilities and schools are affected through military use, including health posts, centers, and general hospitals, with health and other services affected.⁸¹ As of November 2022, in Ethiopia, more than 1.4 million children were out

78 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Somalia, 14 February 2023)

79 Key information interview (CTFMR in Syria, 16 January 2023)

80 Ibid.

81 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Ethiopia, 17 January 2023)

of school due to drought⁸² and in cases where families are unable to afford school fees, they opt to send boys to school, thus negatively impacting upon girls' education.

While not directly related to climate, in one striking instance in Somalia following drone strikes by military forces against Al-Shabaab in Galmudug, the group subsequently entered a village and commandeered a local hospital. This action displaced women and children, including pregnant women who were forced to leave the hospital and seek alternatives, while health workers were compelled to attend to the injured fighters of the group.⁸³ These examples all suggest that interactions between climate and conflict result in implications for children's access to education and health.

As previously mentioned, the monitoring and reporting framework of the CAAC Agenda considers rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in armed conflict as a grave violation. While this research did not yield tangible evidence of the direct links between the grave violation of rape and other forms of sexual violence and climate insecurity, it is important to note from a gender perspective that teams are aware of an increase in gender-based violations in areas affected by climate-related stressors, such as in Somalia and Ethiopia. This includes increased rates of child marriage and harmful practices adopted as negative coping mechanisms by families grappling with food insecurity and loss of livelihoods due to drought.

Teams also stressed the implications of girls having to walk even longer distances to meet their basic needs in face of diminishing resources including firewood and water, which increases their risks to rape and other forms of sexual violence. In the case of Somalia, from the cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence documented last year, almost half occurred when girls were on their way to fetch water outside of their villages and camps, putting



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82 OCHA. Horn of Africa Drought Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action, 28 November 2022, p. 6. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/attachments/06ef00e9-041a-4907-8b27-2eb335bd97d0/ROSEA_20221128_HOA_Drought-Overview_November_2022.pdf.


83 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Somalia, 14 February 2023)

84 Ibid.

85 Ibid.

86 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Ethiopia, 17 January 2023)

87 UNICEF. Ethiopia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 11 including Northern Conflict and Drought Responses, 20 November 2022. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/132866/file/UNICEF%20Ethiopia%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20No.%2011%20-%20November%202022.pdf>.



to question the longer distances to walk for fewer resources.⁸⁴ Notably, twenty-five per cent of these incidents occurred in or around IDP camps.⁸⁵ Similarly in Ethiopia, girls who travel longer distances to fetch water in drought-prone areas were the most at risk.⁸⁶ In Ethiopia, between January and April 2021 and the same period in 2022, child marriage increased by an average of 119 per cent across regions worst hit by the drought, namely Somali, Oromia, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region.⁸⁷ Specifically, UNICEF noted that data from West Guji zone Bureau of Women and Children Affairs office, collected from 10 *woredas* (districts) affected by both drought and conflict, shows that 293 children were exposed to child marriage over the last three to four months.⁸⁸

Examples gathered through this research point out that more insight is needed into the gendered aspects of climate-related stressors and grave violations going forward. For instance, when examining recruitment and use through a gender lens, often multiple factors can influence a child's association with an armed force or group. In Syria, reports include girls who choose to seek out joining particular armed groups as a means of perceived or actual empowerment, agency and even escaping a harmful home environment with further context for a home situation impoverished by reduced resources and livelihoods for the family, including impoverishment linked to crop failure.⁸⁹ In Myanmar, OCHA analysis pointed out that girls and women are particularly affected by the lack of access to economic means, which forces them to travel to other parts of the country that, in turn, exposes them to other risks. Any additional climate-related impacts could plausibly heighten these risks.⁹⁰ Generally, research participants noted that it is very difficult to have aggregated data on children and gender, leaving scope for further work and analysis.

In summary, a deeper look is needed to assess how attacks on schools and hospitals, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, and killing and maiming may interact with climate-related stressors; however, the primary research presented on the recruitment and use and the denial of humanitarian access provides an initial insight into these connections for children affected by armed conflict. For abduction specifically, it is imperative to examine reasons why children may be abducted by parties to conflict in the context of climate-related stressors that interplay with socio-economic impacts, which may involve trafficking. Similarly, for killing and maiming, as evidenced in Syria, there is a need to closely examine how shifting terrains due to more frequent floods can expose unexploded ordnance, posing additional risks.

88 Ibid.

89 Key information interview (CTFMR in Syria, 16 January 2023)

90 Key informant interview (CTFMR in Myanmar, 9 January 2023)

D. Case Study

In his 2022 annual report on CAAC, the UN Secretary-General added Mozambique as a situation of concern due to the crisis in Cabo Delgado Province.⁹¹ As a result, the UN verified 309 violations against 172 children for the year 2022 as reported by the Secretary-General in his subsequent report. These violations included recruitment and use, abduction, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals mostly attributed to non-State armed groups.⁹²



For this discussion paper, Cabo Delgado was selected as an ideal case study to explore the interactions between climate-related stressors and conflict. This selection is based on the fact that the crisis, marked by attacks from non-State armed groups since 2019, coincided with a series of subsequent climate-related stressors. These included flooding resulting from heavy rainfall and drought, which were further exacerbated by the occurrence of cyclone Idai in March, followed by cyclone Kenneth in April of the same year.

i. Context


Cabo Delgado Province has seen increasing exploitation of natural resources over the past three decades, which has contributed to the environmental degradation. This was coupled with underdevelopment that resulted in political unrest, instability and massive displacement, and grievances due to structural issues pertaining to lack of access to health and education and other essential services for its populations.⁹³

Marking a turning point, cyclone Kenneth was followed by a spike in violence and deaths resulting from the increased size and bolder tactics employed by armed groups in 2020. The government's attentiveness and capacity to respond to the attacks was reduced as tackling the aftermath of the cyclones took precedence.⁹⁴ Some of the largest attacks in

91 United Nations. Annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, July 2022, A/76/871-S/2022/493, para. 311. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2022/493>.

92 United Nations. Annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, June 2023, A/77/895-S/2023/363, para. 269. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/77/895>.

93 Key informant interview (UNICEF Field Office in Mozambique, 7 December 2022)



2020 occurred in the district of Quissanga in the aftermath of aid distribution for cyclone relief where armed groups allegedly took advantage of aid distribution in places of religious worship, namely mosques, to conduct their recruitment strategies.⁹⁵ In some instances, armed groups were aware of the movement of aid, for example to the island of Ibo off of the Northern coast of Cabo Delgado province. Furthermore, attacks occurred when IDPs returned from Metuge district to Bilibiza village in Quissanga and began harvesting.

In 2020, the number of displaced persons in Cabo Delgado surged from 40, 000 at the start of the year to 600, 000 by the year's end according to the Protection Cluster.⁹⁶ Approximately 50 to 60 per cent of the population depends on rainfed agriculture, and its coastal areas are essential for fisheries. Both the insecurity due to crisis and weather-related events not only hindered the access of many residents to the much-needed humanitarian assistance they depend on, but also disrupted their ability to sustain themselves through their agriculture and fishing practices.

ii. Testimonies of Affected Children and Communities

This research paid particular attention to the experiences of affected children and communities facing both insecurity due to armed conflict and climate-related stressors. During two focus groups conducted with children, including former CAAFAG, and adults in an IDP camp in Mueda district, the research revealed that certain individuals suffered multiple displacements. These displacements were a result of the crisis involving attacks by non-State armed groups on their villages, as well as cyclones. As a result, some individuals were twice or even thrice displaced, originating from districts such as Muidumbe, Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, and Montepuez.⁹⁷ For instance, in Muidumbe, adults mentioned the occurrence of an armed group attack in October 2020 following the 2019 cyclone. When asked whether they perceived any connection between these events, both children and adults expressed they viewed attacks and cyclones as distinct occurrences. In the aftermath of cyclones, they could usually return to rebuild their lives a few weeks after taking temporary shelter and receiving assistance. However, in the case of after armed groups' attacks, children and adults expressed deep fear to return to their homes due to insecurity. They felt that returning was not a viable option and were essentially waiting for *gondo* (war) to end before they could return home and resume their normal way of life. Both children and adults interviewed for the research spoke about the destruction of their homes and crops from cyclones and noted changes in the cultivation of fruit like mango prior to these events. The children explained that their homes and schools had been destroyed by the cyclone, but some of them were

94 Key informant interview (UNICEF Conflict Analysis/Civ-Mil Affairs Team in Mozambique, 7 December 2022)

95 Key informant interview (AVSI, 8 December 2022)

96 Key informant interview (Protection Cluster, December 2022)

97 Focus Group Discussions (6 December 2022)

eventually rebuilt, allowing them to return. However, they also noted that as soon as the cyclone passed in 2020, the “war” began.

The children recounted their journey to the IDP camp, mentioning that they witnessed distressing sights along the way, including “car accidents, bones, and some dead people on the way.” Some of them did not know where they were going, while others suffered from hunger and swollen feet due to walking. The overarching feeling among all of them was the fear of not reaching a safe place again. Finally, residing in the IDP camp, their hope of restarting a normal life waned, but they believed that if the war came to an end, they could return to their place of origin. During the focus group with adults, it was mentioned that they witnessed the return of CAAFAG. The children seemed to require immediate medical intervention due to evident signs of malnutrition and visible skin injuries. Moreover, they needed mental health assessments due to their extended stay with armed groups. Additionally, they lacked essentials such as clothing and food.

iii. The Impact of Crisis and Climate-Related Insecurity

Cyclone Idai activated a Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up involving the UN’s cluster system in Cabo Delgado.⁹⁸ Followed shortly by cyclone Kenneth that year, these events marked a defining point by signaling a pattern of more frequent and intense tropical storms in Mozambique, now expected on an almost annual basis. Simultaneously, the coastal areas of Cabo Delgado suffered sporadic attacks by non-State armed groups that were referenced in the focus groups described above.

According to the Protection Cluster, these two cyclones destroyed livelihoods and left in their wake a series of protection concerns for children, their families and communities, including: an increase in gender-based violence against children; instances of sexual exploitation and abuse; the loss of civil documentation and birth certificates; diminished access to services; a reduction in overall safety and security; an increase in mental health and psychosocial needs – partially stemming from family violence; an increased need for water and sanitation facilities; challenges in safely evacuating children and persons with disabilities; and the exacerbation of grievances contributing to the conflict, along with the six grave violations that the UN was able to document and verify.⁹⁹

Organizations operating in Cabo Delgado shared two key observations, namely that armed groups tend to remain quiet during the rainy season and that following cyclones such as Kenneth, they tend to target communities made more fragile by these events for recruitment, theft, and destruction.¹⁰⁰ According to the Food Security Cluster, more looting for food

98 Key informant interview (Protection Cluster, December 2022)

99 Ibid.

100 Key informant interview (December 2022)

supplies occurs during the lean season. One organization conducting case management services in Mueda observed that during village attacks, armed groups use force as a tactic for recruitment and threaten to kill family members regardless of age. While cyclones brought vulnerability to families and affected recruitment due to the loss of livelihoods, armed groups also targeted businesspeople in stable communities to obtain money and goods.

A confluence of the crisis and increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms impacted children and their families and communities in their aftermath. Individuals who shared their experiences revealed the trauma felt by affected populations after cyclone Kenneth. For instance, in Ibo, individuals were so profoundly affected that any strong wind would trigger fear, reminding them of the possibility of another cyclone approaching. Meanwhile, children felt triggered when they saw military and police personnel in uniforms, as they could not distinguish whether these individuals were friendly or posed a potential threat, given their previous



encounters with armed groups. As recounted directly by the children themselves, they are on the move to flee crisis, seeking safety; however, upon their arrival at locations where IDPs are seeking refuge, they find that access to adequate services is lacking. Children have lost their friends, are living in environments they are not used to, and their sense of normalcy has vanished, while suffering psychological impacts.

In terms of impact on livelihoods, food security was directly affected by climate insecurity as floods and cyclones impacted the production of food, and furthermore caused population movements, including children, where, as mentioned above, some communities moved three or more times due to crisis and cyclones. For those who lived by agriculture and fishing, climate change increased their vulnerability and poses a future threat to adaptation. In the words of one research participant, “We don’t look at it as a problem now, only when it happens” suggesting a shift in perspective is needed from a reactive response to proactively planning for such events. The extractive projects in the North of the province have led populations to expect an improvement in their lives, however many have escaped to places like Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado for security. This relocation in turn has greater demands for water supply, food, and land for people to be housed and to farm. Additionally, public health has become a significant concern as evidenced by the increase in water-borne diseases.

In terms of social services, disruptions are observed in the education sector. Classes are interrupted as a result of cyclones and crisis where humanitarian actors have regularly witnessed abandoned schools with teachers being absent due to security concerns.¹⁰¹ This is mostly seen in the districts in the North where government military actors also occupy schools after cyclones. The UN Secretary-General's 2023 annual report on CAAC cited two attacks on schools and three attacks on hospitals, as well as military use of twelve schools and one hospital by the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces and the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique.¹⁰² In Macomia, a situation arose where a hospital was used for military purposes, even though it was a facility where two physicians were providing medical services. This occurred after the area had already endured the impact of cyclone Kenneth, followed by an attack by an armed group. The facility was half-destroyed and three of its functioning rooms were used for consultation with patients.¹⁰³ Also in Ibo island and Mocimboa da Praia district, armed personnel used facilities. Generally, several health facilities have been either completely or partially destroyed with their reconstruction and rehabilitation delayed due to the lack of contractors given safety concerns. It was observed that the absence of community members in a facility or lack of use of a facility prompts military actors to use it, be it a school or a hospital, for instance to use electricity. In Macomia, an initial assessment indicated that a hospital was strategically located in relation to the ocean and crisis-related dynamics. These factors played a role in informing the decision to occupy the hospital. The overall impact is impeded access for children to education upon return.


Finally, research participants highlighted particular impact of the crisis and climate insecurity on girls as a vulnerable group. As stated by the Protection Cluster, families displaced by the crisis-driven insecurity or storms engaged in negative coping mechanisms including child, early, and forced marriage, transactional sex, and there was an increase in adolescent pregnancy. For CAAFAG girls specifically, a challenge was reintegration as community members do not want to be associated with insurgents when girls are released.¹⁰⁴ Some girls were taken by the insurgents to serve them or introduce them to an ideology or become wives, with some cases suggesting they were required to convert their religion, but they did not target girls with disabilities. However, boys were also coerced to join armed groups. Some were coerced to join these groups and be exposed to their ideology, and to be used as spies, for logistical roles, or as combatants. Others were forced into this situation because they had no access to educational opportunities, leaving them vulnerable to recruitment. Generally, as people are forced to relocate for security and safety as a result of the crisis, they face a challenge with accessing resources such as firewood or water they need on a daily basis. For

101 Key informant interview (Food Security Cluster, 12 December 2022)

102 United Nations. Annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, June 2023, A/77/895-S/2023/363, para. 275. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/77/895>.

103 Key informant interview (Child Rights Monitoring Group, December 2022)

104 Key informant interview (UNFPA, 9 December 2022)



this reason, women and girls are forced to wake up early to walk five kilometers to a water point and are on the way exposed to different forms of violence, including gender-based violence.¹⁰⁵

In summary, this case study shows that the situation for children in Cabo Delgado is complex and shows the interweaving of the negative impacts on the population as a result of both the crisis and the climate-related stressors. These factors are different but they both cause massive displacement that carries with it protection risks. While distinct, they carry with them insecurity that impacts on children's access to basic services, their families', and communities' livelihoods, and ultimately enjoyment of children's rights, including to be safe and protected from grave violations. The situation also posits a shift in the way that international actors supporting the government in Cabo Delgado assess risks and adapt along with the communities, while paying particular attention to children as a distinct group, bearing in mind that gender plays a role in how different children are impacted. This shift in thought and action on the part of all actors operating in the province will be critical while stability is restored and weather-related events continue to overlay the crisis with more intensity and frequency as this research shows.

105 Key informant interview (Girl Child Rights, 22 December 2022)



UNICEF/UN0663284/Sewunet

III.

Conclusions and Recommendations



It is clear from the Cabo Delgado case study and the six other situations examined through this research that children experiencing both conflict and climate-related stressors are in a lesser position to access and realize their rights and protections. The recruitment and use of children and the denial of humanitarian access to children are two grave violations that are most affected by climate change. More research is needed into the impact on other four violations, namely killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abduction.

With regards to the recruitment and use and the denial of humanitarian access, the links were particularly clear during emergency response in the aftermath of disasters in areas simultaneously affected by conflict. In these areas, dynamics unfold that curtail children's access to humanitarian aid, or armed groups alter their behavior and recruitment strategies, recognizing the significance of diminishing resources resulting from climatic shifts.

This research derived several key conclusions. First, that there is a gap in the overall understanding of children affected by armed conflict in the peace and security discussions, and between the agendas of the Security Council working to address both the issue of Children and Armed Conflict and Climate, Peace, and Security. However, given emerging mandates to work on both in some settings, there is scope for integrating these agendas at the field and policy level in the near term (see Annex I). The research has also yielded a set of practical recommendations presented in a box below, suggesting a way forward to integrate these two agendas to increase the protection of children in conflict settings affected by climate insecurity.

Practically, this integration could be achieved by fostering collaboration between Child Protection and Climate, Peace, and Security Advisers in missions where both are deployed. One CTFMR proposed organizing an induction session for each component, allowing new staff to discuss their respective roles. Considering its important mandate and increasing authority with Member States, the CSM should consider integrating capacity to understand the specific impact of climate insecurity on children affected by armed conflict, and for this, its Community of Practice on Climate, Peace, and Security serves as a valuable platform for information-sharing. However, a more sustainable path towards integration to ensure that analysis provided to the UN in the field comprehensively addresses the needs of children should be strategized for the future and could include a secondment of staff.


The UN Member States who are championing both these agendas in the Security Council and more widely in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly could strengthen collaboration by, for instance, convening discussions in the Groups of Friends of CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security to gain a greater awareness and understanding of the impacts on children specifically. The SCWG CAAC should discuss climate-related impacts,

where relevant, during its consideration of country-specific reporting by the UN Secretary-General. This inclusion in their discussions will enhance the depth of their deliberations and conclusions.

Decision-makers and practitioners alike should begin to integrate a dual approach by integrating both a climate lens and a child-centered lens into their work. This discussion paper, through its primary research examples, offers insights on how to initiate this integration. Interestingly, prior to this exploration, some research participants confessed never having considered the linkages. As a recommendation, this research proposes breaking existing siloes to foster a more interconnected and holistic approach.

While contextualizing armed conflict is challenging, at the field level where UN is operating an MRM and simultaneously responding to disasters impacting children and communities, integrating both lenses could enhance child protection if grave violations are mainstreamed under protection concerns. One CTFMR suggested a simple question could be added during interviews with affected children while monitoring recruitment and use, for instance, whether the child in question joined an armed group due to the destruction of livelihoods caused by climate change, including its impact on agriculture. To simplify these linkages for those being interviewed, it is essential to define climate change based on local realities and the specific consequences of climate-related stressors. This approach requires interviewers to have a comprehensive understanding of the implications of climate change in the local context. Another CTFMR proposed comparing specific climate-related stressor peaks and verified MRM cases to strengthen analysis. Finally, the composition of agencies in the CTFMRs is another space worthy of expansion. For instance, the inclusion of the World Food Programme (WFP) varies across entities. Considering the distinct mandates of these agencies and their clear responses to climate-related stressors, it is crucial to ensure the right agencies are included in the CTFMR membership to enhance the effectiveness of child protection in situations of armed conflict.

Second, there is a greater need for coordination and sharing of already existing tools that include climate-related indicators as well as child-centered analyses. One problem singled out by this research was a lack of joint conflict or context analysis at the UN level in the field that would holistically integrate both aspects. This research also posed the question regarding which tools and resources actors use to inform their work on climate insecurity and analyze climate-related elements in their work. Annex II offers a mapping of these tools, guidance documents and resources referenced in the KIIs and offers a snapshot into their nature and variety. To enhance our understanding of the interconnectedness between conflict and climate insecurity, it is crucial to incorporate a predictive analysis of the effects of current climate-related stressors. One valuable approach is to integrate a multilayer analysis, including climate change considerations, into assessments such as the Multi-Sector/Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) from the beginning. Additionally, there is a need to explore



opportunities for agencies, such as UNICEF, to contribute to the ongoing development of ad-hoc assessment tools, ensuring a more comprehensive and collaborative approach in addressing the multifaceted challenges arising from the intersection of conflict and climate-related stressors for children.

Finally, research touched on funding concerns. From the perspective of donors and the international community in countries such as Somalia, very often, drought and conflict are seen as two separate matters. While it will differ upon country or region, in places where climate-related stressors and conflict build on each other, it is crucial to increase awareness, recognizing that these challenges are interconnected and exacerbate each other, particularly for children. The observation that child protection is often the least funded sector within humanitarian responses underscores the need to ensure that emergency support is flexible and linked to child protection. This would acknowledge the intertwined nature of these challenges and would enable a more comprehensive response to the complex needs of children in crisis situations.

By paying particular attention to children affected by armed conflict in the areas of policy integration, tool coordination and funding, the UN Security Council and other key actors in international peace and security will be better poised to achieve their objectives when responding to the urgent impacts of the climate emergency.

Key Recommendations for a Way Forward

To the UN Security Council:

- ▶ To support effective implementation of its mandates, increase links between its work that addresses CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security with the wider objective of maintaining international peace and security.
- ▶ In implementation of the mandates on child protection and Climate, Peace, and Security in country and regional situations, encourage connecting Child Protection Advisers with Climate, Peace, and Security Advisers in missions where both are deployed.

To the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict:

- ▶ Continue to discuss, as relevant, climate-related impacts in situations where it considers country-specific reporting by the UN Secretary-General and deliberates its conclusions.

To the Climate Security Mechanism:

- ▶ Consider integrating capacity to understand how children affected by armed conflict are particularly impacted by climate insecurity and how this may evolve in the future, such as through a staff secondment.
- ▶ To this end, utilize its Community of Practice on Climate, Peace, and Security as an information-sharing platform and determine a long-term integration solution to ensure its analysis provided to the UN in the field encompasses children's concerns, particularly CAAC.

To the UN partners on the ground, including CTFMRs:

- ▶ Increase coordination and sharing of existing tools and resources for strengthening analysis of climate-related stressors on children affected by armed conflict.
- ▶ In the analysis for MIRA and other multi-sector needs assessment, include multilayer analysis for populations including climate change.
- ▶ Develop and share ad-hoc assessment tools which incorporate climate-related as well as child-centered indicators.
- ▶ Consider diversity of membership in the CTFMRs and include agencies with mandates to analyze and respond to climate-related stressors.

- ▶ Provide training for field staff and enumerators conducting assessments on how to identify links between children's experiences and climate-related factors in order to enable them to define climate change based on local realities during interviews with affected children.
- ▶ During interviews with affected children, consider including questions on how climate-related events have impacted them with regards to grave violations such as whether they joined armed groups because of livelihood destruction caused by climate change, including agriculture.
- ▶ Consider comparison of climate-related stressor peaks and verified MRM cases to strengthen analysis of data.

To Member State champions of CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security, including donors:

- ▶ Strengthen collaboration by convening discussions in the Groups of Friends of CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security to gain a greater awareness and understanding of the impacts on children specifically.

To affected governments:

- ▶ To prioritize the specific risks to children, governments in regions affected by both climate insecurity and crisis/conflict can begin with identifying these risks and incorporating them into comprehensive national responses, in collaboration with relevant actors. To support these efforts, the UN can offer expertise and resources to enhance prevention and mitigation strategies focused on minimizing the risks to children.

To donors supporting CAAC and Climate, Peace, and Security:

- ▶ In countries and regions experiencing armed conflict and climate-related stressors, support flexible funding for emergency response and adaptation that considers both, not viewing them as separate, and allow links with child protection and CAAC, which is often most underfunded in any humanitarian response.

To think tanks and other research institutions, including those working at the intersection of climate and conflict:

- ▶ Invest in further research examining rights-based implications of climate insecurity on children affected by armed conflict to build on this exploration, instead of grouping women and children together which results in conflation of their different vulnerabilities and status.

Annex I: UN Security Council Mandates on CAAC and Climate

Context	Resolution	Children and Armed Conflict Paragraphs	Climate-related Paragraphs
Afghanistan	2626 (2022)	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 5(a)(g)(j)	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 5(d)
Central African Republic	2659 (2022)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 11, 26, 27, 35 (a)(iv), 36(b)(ii), 36(e)(i), 48 and 56	Preamble
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2666 (2022)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 24(i)(e), 24(ii)(g-k) and 28	Preamble
Haiti	2692 (2023)	Preamble	Preamble
Iraq	2682 (2023)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 2(c)(i) and 2(f)	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 2(b)(iv)
Libya	2702 (2023)	Preamble	Preamble
Lake Chad basin	2349 (2017)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 1, 11, 12, 15, 30 and 32	Operational Paragraph 26
Mali	2423 (2018)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 38(a)(ii), 38(d)(iii), 38(e)(ii), 63 and 66	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 68
	2480 (2019)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 7, 28(a)(ii), 28(c)(iii), 28(e)(ii), 55 and 57	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 60
	2531 (2020)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 6, 28(a)(iii), 28(c)(iii), 28(e)(ii), 53, 54 and 55	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 58
	2584 (2021)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 7, 15, 30(a)(iii), 30(c)(iii), 30(d)(ii), 47, 52, 53 and 54	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 57
	2640 (2022)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 5, 12, 26(a)(iii), 26(c)(iii), 26(d)(ii), 41, 47, 48 and 49	Preamble, Operational Paragraph 52
Somalia	2657 (2022)	Operational Paragraphs 10 and 13(b)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 11 (a) and 14
South Sudan	2677 (2023)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 3(a)(ii)(iii), 3(c)(ii), 3(d)(ii), 16 and 17	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 3(b)(i) and 32
Sudan	2524 (2020)	Preamble, Operational Paragraphs 2(ii)(b) and 2(iii)(d)	Preamble

Annex II: Tools and Resources for Practitioners

Organization	Tool Name	Details
Child Protection Working Group, Protection Cluster	Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA)	An inter-agency, cluster-specific rapid assessment tool for assessing urgent child protection needs in rapid-onset emergencies, promoting a standardized approach and systematic data collection. ¹⁰⁶
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) ¹⁰⁷	Climate Security Observatory (CSO)	Assists stakeholders comprehend and respond to food security risks related to climate change by providing accessible and actionable insights on climate security. Training workshops are available to ensure effective use of the CSO and promote awareness of climate security.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)	Gathers and analyzes data on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced populations, including migration of drought affected population. Provides context-specific assistance to decision makers and responders.
Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)	Analyzes the impact and needs of those affected by crises, tracking the evolution of emergencies. Helps Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT) develop a shared understanding of crisis effects. ¹⁰⁸
OCHA	Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)	Online platform that enables real-time information exchange among disaster response professionals during the initial phase of a disaster. ¹⁰⁹
Various	Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)	Often coordinated by OCHA with involvement of different agencies and occurs following any emergency of significant scale. ¹¹⁰ Collects and analyzes information on affected people and their needs to inform strategic response planning. ¹¹¹
Various	Multisectoral Drought Assessments	Conducted by a combination of UN agencies, government agencies, and NGO partners to analyze the severity and impacts of drought on various sectors.

¹⁰⁶ Global Protection Cluster, Child Protection Working Group. Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit, December 2012. Available at: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cp_ra_toolkit_english.pdf.

¹⁰⁷ The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is a global research partnership committed to addressing food security challenges in the face of climate change. See CIGAR, Climate Security Observatory Training Workshop. Available at: <https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/event/cgiar-climate-security-observatory-training-workshop/>

¹⁰⁸ OCHA, Humanitarian Response. Humanitarian Need Overview. Available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/humanitarian-need-overview>.

¹⁰⁹ Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System. Virtual OSOCC. Available at: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>

¹¹⁰ Global Protection Cluster, Child Protection Working Group. Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit, December 2012. Available at: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cp_ra_toolkit_english.pdf.

¹¹¹ IASC Needs Assessment Task Force. Tool: Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), July 2015. Available at: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/mira_manual_2015.pdf

Organization	Tool Name	Details
UNICEF	Child-centered Risk Analysis	Tool for risk-informed planning that gathers data on hazards, children's exposure, and vulnerability to understand and reduce risks children face due to climate change. ¹¹²
UNICEF	Guidance for Risk-informed Programming (GRIP)	Enhances child-centered risk analysis and supports integration of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts by facilitating multi-hazard risk analysis among stakeholders. ¹¹³
UNICEF	Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)	Ranks countries based on children's exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts, considering factors like environmental shocks and access to essential services. Exposure factors include events like cyclones and heatwaves, while vulnerability considers children's access to essential services. ¹¹⁴ The Children's Climate Risk Index Interactive Atlas allows users to visualize the CCRI on a global map.
UNICEF	Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP)	Internal online tool for implementing UNICEF's Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response, enabling risk analysis and anticipatory actions before an emergency or the deterioration of a situation. ¹¹⁵
WFP	Forecast-based Financing (FbF)	Program that enables anticipatory actions for disaster mitigation and access to humanitarian funding based on in-depth forecast information and risk analysis to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact, if possible, and reduce human suffering and losses. ¹¹⁶
WHO	Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HerAMS)	Collaborative electronic system for real-time monitoring of medical resources, mostly used for emergency response. Shares core health resource and service information to decision makers at all levels to support healthcare improvements. ¹¹⁷

112 UNICEF, Child-Centred Risk Assessment for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, August 2016. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/751/file/Child-Centred-Risk-Assessment.pdf>.

113 UNICEF. Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming, April 2018. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/95276/file/GRIP-All-Modules.pdf>.

114 UNICEF. The climate crisis is a child rights crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/childrens-climate-risk-index-report/>.

115 UNICEF. Action Brief Gender-Responsive Emergency Preparedness, 2022. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/129086/file/UNICEF%20Action%20Brief%20-%20Six%20Gender%20Priorities%20for%20UNICEF%20Emergency%20Preparedness%20Platform%20EPP.pdf>.

116 WFP. Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Anticipatory Actions for Food Security, April 2019. Available at: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000104963/download/?_ga=2.80903380.299537756.1698782751-1673959662.1698262591

117 WHO, HerAMS. Available at: herams.org/session/create



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Contact Details:

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Children and Armed Conflict

United Nations Secretariat

New York, NY 10017, USA

<http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org>

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