Localising Climate, Peace and Security

Documenting, Assessing, and Addressing Climate Security Challenges at the Local Level

A Practical Step-by-Step Guide for Local Peacebuilding Actors

Acknowledgements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Localising climate security risk assessments offer a pathway to address climate-related security risks and potentially prevent those risks from emerging or escalating. There are two key points to keep in mind when analysing the links between climate and security:

1 Climate change and security are linked in complex ways.

Climate change can multiply security risks; and fragility, violence, and conflict can contribute to climate change and environmental degradation. This is especially true for the contexts where governance is weak and coping capacities are low. Viewing and dealing with the impacts of climate change independently from security issues slows or stops sustainable development and peace.

Local example of the interlinkage between climate and conflict in Gwanda, Zimbabwe

Changes in weather conditions due to climate change make farming and cattle raising less viable, causing some people to be more desperate for ways to survive and pushing them toward illegal and environmentally unfriendly mining activities on arable farming land and cattle pastures. When farmers confront the miners, violence or farm/cattle abandonment happens, which leads to violent and fatal clashes between law enforcement agents and armed miners. In the aftermath, soil quality falls due to toxic chemicals used during mining and leftover mine pits, which are hazardous to livestock and local people.

2 Climate security challenges are also highly context-specific.

Interactions between climate change and security vary across countries and between localities within countries. As demonstrated through pilot studies, limited engagement of local community members on climate security solutions has contributed to ineffective or even counterproductive programming in many contexts.

The three factors at the interlinkage between climate and security

How climate and security interact at the local level depends on 1) the exposure (type and severity) to climate change hazards in the context of 2) local community vulnerabilities and 3) adaptive capacities. Without taking all three factors into account, programmes will struggle to understand and address the full breadth of risks causing local fragility.

Localised climate security risk assessments provide a critical tool to help identify, collect evidence of, and prioritise responses to risks at the local level, strengthening human security efforts. Localisation systematically includes local experiences in climate security policy and programming by empowering local community members to document, share, and then work with relevant national, regional, and international partners to integrate their experiences, observations, and perspectives into climate, peace and security processes. This can generate a greater understanding of local communities, build existing knowledge, and allow communities to invest in their own change, meaningfully influence policy, and enhance programming that affects their daily lives. Once localised, reliable and verifiable local evidence can help drive prioritised, targeted action, and investment by stakeholders at all levels.

This Guidance Note is a resource for the local peacebuilding community. In 5 sequential steps,* this Guidance Note will help local peacebuilding actors:

1. Design and conduct integrated local climate security risk assessment strategies, and

2. Establish or strengthen communication channels with national, regional, and global policymakers to develop more impactful strategies that better address local climate and security issues.

*The proposed steps can be adapted to various specific contexts.

ROADMAP
TO A LOCALISED CLIMATE SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT

These five (5) steps will help local peacebuilders document local climate security challenges and address gaps in current climate change and conflict response strategies by creating, implementing, and finalising a localised risk assessment.

01
STEP

UNDERSTANDING AND CLARIFYING THE LOCAL LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

- ✓ Explain the link between climate change and security
- ✓ Ask about links that local community members see or sense between exposure to climate change and security risks
- ✓ Produce short and clear messages on the identified local links between climate change and security risks
- ✓ Brainstorm and implement methods for community sensitisation and inclusion

02
STEP

UNITING KEY ACTORS AROUND A COMMON GOAL

- ✓ Identify the key stakeholders within and around the community
- ✓ Map common information sources (i.e., climate and security databases) and key community structures with the help of community members
- ✓ Ensure community understanding, support, and involvement
- ✓ Bring relevant internal and external stakeholders 'on board'
- ✓ Obtain free and informed buy-in from community members using local social networks, structures, and key stakeholders

03
STEP

DEVELOPING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS METHODS

- ✓ Agree on a set of practical results of data collection (i.e., risks, solutions, etc.)
- ✓ Design ways to collect, store, and share local climate and security data (i.e., research books, digital databases, etc.)
- ✓ Collect data on how diverse groups and spaces within the community are affected
- ✓ Finalise sources of reliable and relevant climate and security data

04
STEP

ANALYSING COLLECTED DATA AND IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS

- ✓ Compile a list of potential solutions that answer key questions (i.e., when/where certain climate and security impacts happen, what/who is affected, how/why impacts can be addressed, etc.)
- ✓ Rate the solutions based on past experience and common strategies from global databases
- ✓ Identify target audiences for buy-in on any potential solutions
- ✓ Identify concrete avenues to use the analysed data

05
STEP

COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

- ✓ List the reasons for communicating with target audiences
- ✓ Develop strategies for communicating and persuading all audiences
- ✓ Share your asks and recommendations with the target audiences
- ✓ Schedule regular follow-ups and check-ins with key stakeholders and community members to evaluate how strategies are working

See below step-by-step visuals & tables following each step for additional information

CORE OVERVIEW

Temperature changes in the earth's atmosphere, water bodies, and land. This is the main aspect of climate change. Such a change creates different effects depending on local geography and development. Common effects that result in climate change hazards for local communities include sea-level rise, changes in weather patterns, drought, more severe storms, changes in animal and insect migration patterns, and shifts in natural growing seasons.

Climate change hazards can affect human security in a local community by reducing access to food, water, or energy, limiting access to land and sea, changing human migration patterns, disturbing commerce/trade, and spreading disease. Increased fear, conflict, poverty, and breakdown of social and cultural ties can all occur as a result.

Conflict, fragility, and social tensions can also contribute to climate change. For example, when trees are cut down to fence off land from attacks or sell for food in conflict-affected areas, the local soil may lose its ability to hold water or grow crops, worsening climate impacts and driving further fragility.

How are climate change and security linked?

Hazards & Exposure

Local Vulnerabilities

Adaptive Capacities

One way to understand how climate change and security interact at the local level is to visualise the three factors that play key roles in addressing any climate security risk: *exposure to local climate hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities.*

Climate Change Hazards: Impacts and events that occur because of climate change (i.e., rising sea level, changing weather patterns, or increasing average temperatures). Many areas are vulnerable to **compound impacts** – multiple hazards that occur at the same time (i.e., droughts and locusts before a massive rainfall). As climate change intensifies, communities may have to bear multiple compound impacts and have less time to recover between shocks. Various levels of **exposure** to climate change will often cause disparity between communities and across regions, so the type and severity of impact at the local level should always be recorded.

Vulnerabilities: How a person, group, or community can be harmed by climate change hazards (i.e., how a family might be affected by increased drought due to temperature rise). The impact of climate change on security can be strengthened or weakened by different social, economic, and political factors, including the inclusiveness of local people in government and access to global support systems and services.

Adaptive Capacity: A community's ability to adjust to climate change (including climate variabilities and hazards), limit potential damages, and take advantage of opportunities to improve (i.e., building water barriers or increasing access to energy). Adaptation plans can include current coping mechanisms specific to a community (i.e., flood evacuation plans, neighbourhood support agreements, or secure communication networks) to assist everyone, including diverse community members, and remain stable in the face of climate or security hazards while increasing adaptive capacity.

Climate change hazards can increase vulnerability and undermine the adaptive capacity of local structures that create stability. In turn, both can lead to more intense and unpredictable climate-related security risks (i.e., increased local violence resulting from desertification of farmland). The variability of relationships between the three factors (above) at the climate security interlinkage means that climate change hazards are not easily predicted and can be highly specific to a community or locality at a distinct time. That makes identifying specific local impacts of climate change, confirming links to local vulnerabilities, and understanding the robustness of local adaptive capacities crucial to truly addressing any climate-related security risks.

Climate security challenges affect different groups in unique ways. Even within a single community, groups that are highly vulnerable to climate change, have a low adaptive capacity, or have few ways of maintaining stability often bear impacts far more than others. Such groups can include women, indigenous people, the differently abled, migrants, children, the elderly, and other minority groups in a specific area. Analysing their situation can provide valuable insights and data to develop strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate and security hazards and risks.

What is a climate security risk assessment?

An integrated and inclusive climate security risk assessment pairs conflict analysis with analysis of climate change hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities to document how climate change contributes to fragility and how fragility contributes to climate change at the local level. (See Annex A for simplified definitions of important terms) Finding **solutions** to climate-related security **risks** through a risk assessment can help build local resiliency to climate change and conflict.

One solution can be the participatory development of a **local climate security adaptation plan**[1] at the intersection of local climate hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities, with a focus on the different impacts on diverse groups in a community. This can be linked to national/regional plans to help ensure incorporation and funding.

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1. See, i.e., Hochachka, Gail (2021) 'Integrating the four faces of climate change adaptation: Towards transformative change in Guatemalan coffee communities'. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105361

What is "localisation"?

Why should local community structures take a lead?

▷ Possession of critical context-specific expertise
▷ Capacity and positionality to promote participation, collaboration, and community buy-in
▷ Ability to guide navigation of local protocols
▷ Integration of indigenous knowledge systems

Localisation is an approach to decision-making and resiliency programming that ensures those who are most impacted by climate fragility have the required prevention, preparedness, and response capacities in terms of *space, power,* and *resources* to meaningfully contribute to the decisions and actions that affect them.[2] Localisation of risk assessments enables the collection of the most relevant data, allows for quick and appropriate responses by communities to climate-related security risks and hazards, and optimises support from national, regional, and international partners.[3] As such, localisation makes understanding and addressing the interlinkage between climate change and security more impactful and relevant through incorporation and consideration at the national/(sub-)regional level.

At a practical level, **the process of localisation requires accomplishing 4 goals:**

1. **Sensitising and engaging** diverse local actors to climate and security risks
2. **Developing** context-specific and inclusive methods for data collection
3. **Establishing and working with** existing community structures
4. **Ensuring** local decision-makers have access to and share the data, allowing them to effectively participate in the decision-making process

Note: Some communities already systematise data by tracking and analysing signals using early warning systems and other communities work on climate security issues through existing formal and informal local community structures (i.e., local peace committees, national peace platforms, and government departments or ministries of peace). Fully integrating climate security risk assessments into these structures will ensure the sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness of climate security initiatives.

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2. Richard, Pascal (2020): "Localisation: An essential step to resilience". Available at: https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/12/Cordaid-2020-November-Resilience-localisation_policy-brief.pdf

3. The UN Climate and Security Mechanism (UN CSM) has developed a 'checklist' that provides a useful starting point for thinking about local climate-sensitive risk assessment. UN Climate and Security Mechanism, 'Checklist to help climate-proof political analysis'. Available at: https://dppa.un.org/sites/default/files/csm_toolbox-4-checklist.pdf

6 Key Principles should be adhered to in the process of localising climate security risk assessments:

Conflict Sensitivity: "Do No Harm, Do Some Good"	Develop understanding of the context in which climate security support is delivered; analyse the relationship between those activities and the specific local context; and adapt the way support is delivered accordingly.
Transparency	Maintain dialogue and clear communication with community members, decision-makers, and all other stakeholders at all stages.
Inclusiveness	Meaningfully include diverse community members and other relevant stakeholders from different social backgrounds (gender, ethnicity, age, religion, disabilities, etc.) and areas of expertise (i.e., climate, peacebuilding, development).
Gender Sensitivity	Integrate the analysis of the societal and cultural factors involved in gender-based exclusion and discrimination. Promote meaningful participation of women and girls.
Youth Sensitivity	Integrate the analysis of the societal and cultural factors involved in the exclusion and discrimination of youth. Promote meaningful participation of young people.
Flexibility	Incorporate feedback from community members and adapt initiatives accordingly.

5 STEP-BY-STEP
GUIDANCE & TIPS

This section describes the five (5) steps to operationalise a climate security risk assessment. It provides guidance, tips, suggestions, and resources that local peacebuilders can adapt to develop and impactfully utilise a localised climate security risk assessment. General guidance and suggestions are available on white pages, and concrete examples and practical tips can be found on grey pages.

Community understanding of the interlinkage between climate and security commonly relies on local lived experiences with climate change, which are often perceived differently by diverse actors at the local level. As such, to fill any gaps in local understanding and knowledge, the development of a climate security risk assessment starts with conceptualising climate security through the experiences of community actors.

The key is to ask: What makes your community peaceful? What does peace mean to you and your community?

From answers to this question, this reflection can connect climate and security links, enabling local communities to relate to climate and security issues.

Engaged local actors can help strengthen relationships and build diverse partnerships in communities to address local climate security hazards. Awareness provides a foundation for community members to think strategically about their contributions to climate security action in their daily lives while also working to prevent conflict and build peace.

Tips for Producing Short, Clear Messages that Explain Climate Security Links

Local collective action is often the best and most effective. After asking and recording any links local community members experience or have insight on (see Exhibit 1), those efforts can begin with short, clear messages. *See Exhibit 2.*

Implementers should aim for short, direct messages that quickly communicate points linking climate and security and are easily accessible by the local actors. This includes inclusive and eye-catching pictures or icons placed in areas of public activities (i.e., community events, public activities) and delivered by community leaders and recognised experts.

Options for Brainstorming and Implementing Methods for Community Sensitisation and Inclusion

Community Spaces (i.e., community dialogues and social halls)

Door-to-Door Public Awareness Sensitisation Campaigns

Educational Programs in Institutions and Communities (i.e., schools, community skill centres, vocational training centres)

Radio Broadcasts, Podcasts, and Other Audio Sharing

News Reporting (i.e., journals, newsletters, electronic media)

Note: Partnerships with professional local communications and outreach experts are extremely important. You can use the most viable methods for the local community.

STEP
01
UNDERSTANDING AND CLARIFYING THE LOCAL LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

STEP 1 EXAMPLES AND TIPS:
UNDERSTANDING AND CLARIFYING THE LOCAL LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

Exhibit 1: Climate Security Links that Local Community Members May See or Sense

Potential Climate Hazards	***Questions to Ask:*** How does this community experience climate change? What are the climate hazards for this community? What are the key climate pressures and shocks in the local area?	***Example Answers:*** Changes in glacier, snow, ice, and permafrost levels Dynamics of floods and droughts Levels of coastal erosion and sea-level rise Changes in land and water ecosystems Changes in the number of wildfires
Vulnerabilities	***Questions to Ask:*** What are problems at the local level that make climate hazards worse? What are the critical facilities, roads, and areas at risk? What community members are most at risk? In what ways do climate hazards make existing vulnerabilities and conflict worse?	***Example Answers:*** Geographic, land ownership, environmental, social, cultural, political and governance, economic, technological, and other factors - such as food and water shortage, fighting between community members, social inequities; farming and trade roads; children, women, and the differently abled.
Adaptive Capacities	***Questions to Ask:*** How can this community address its specific climate hazards together? Are there climate impact support agreements inside and outside the community? How do individual community members respond to climate hazards? What synergies exist between climate impact responses and peacebuilding objectives?	***Example Answers:*** Community institutions, plans, social networks, and practices that help prevent, mitigate, adapt to, and recuperate from climate change hazards - such as strong community ties, inter-community partnerships, and governmental support.
Local Climate Security Risks	***Questions to Ask:*** Based on community answers to the above questions, what are the climate impact-driven and chronic risks to community security? How have climate hazards previously contributed to conflict inside and outside the community? What resources have been affected by climate security hazards?	***Example Answers:*** Water, energy, food; forced migration, violent conflict, disease, and death.

*Since the relationship between climate and security goes both ways, first explore how climate hazards contribute to fragility - for example, changing rainfall patterns may cause longer droughts. Then explore how fragility contributes to climate change - for example, food fragility may undermine a community's ability to adapt to climate change.

Exhibit 2: Examples of the Linkages Between Climate and Security

RISK EXAMPLE: When access to water and food becomes scarce, tensions may arise between farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and urban populations.

Examples of effective messages include visuals of the relationships between 1) climate hazards, 2) vulnerabilities, and 3) adaptive capacities at the local level.
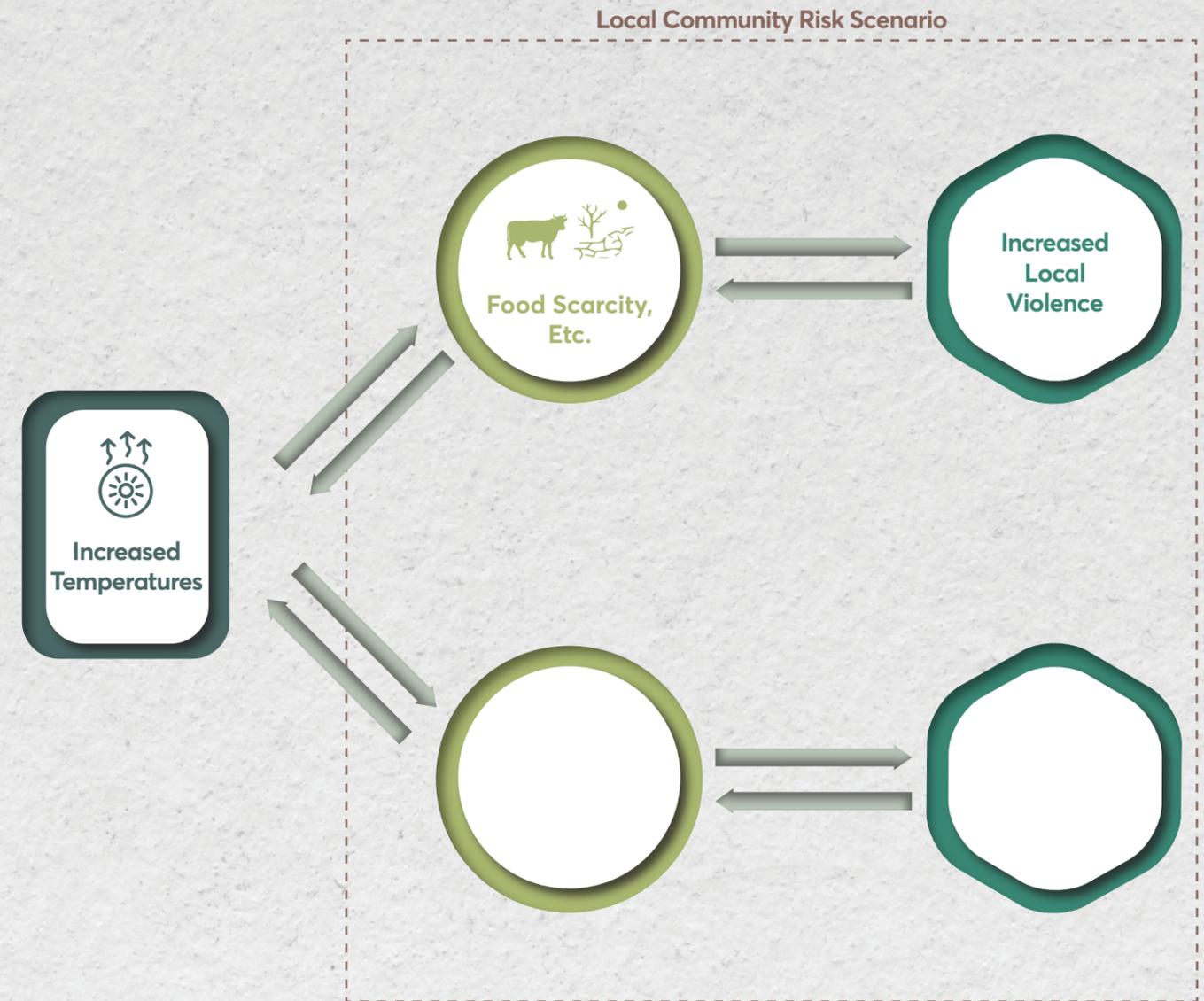
SOLUTION EXAMPLE: Coordinating and sharing information about avenues to consume less water and strengthen a local dam allows for an effective community response during extreme weather. It also helps prevent environmentally induced conflict and displacement related to natural resource distribution and scarcity.

Local Community Risk Scenario

Note: Key messages are best perceived when they are translated into local languages. You can identify the links present in your community and adapt the visual accordingly. See the Community Map (below) for an illustration of this process applied to a tangible result that can be utilized by local actors.

SAMPLE COMMUNITY MAP WITH HYPOTHETICAL ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES:
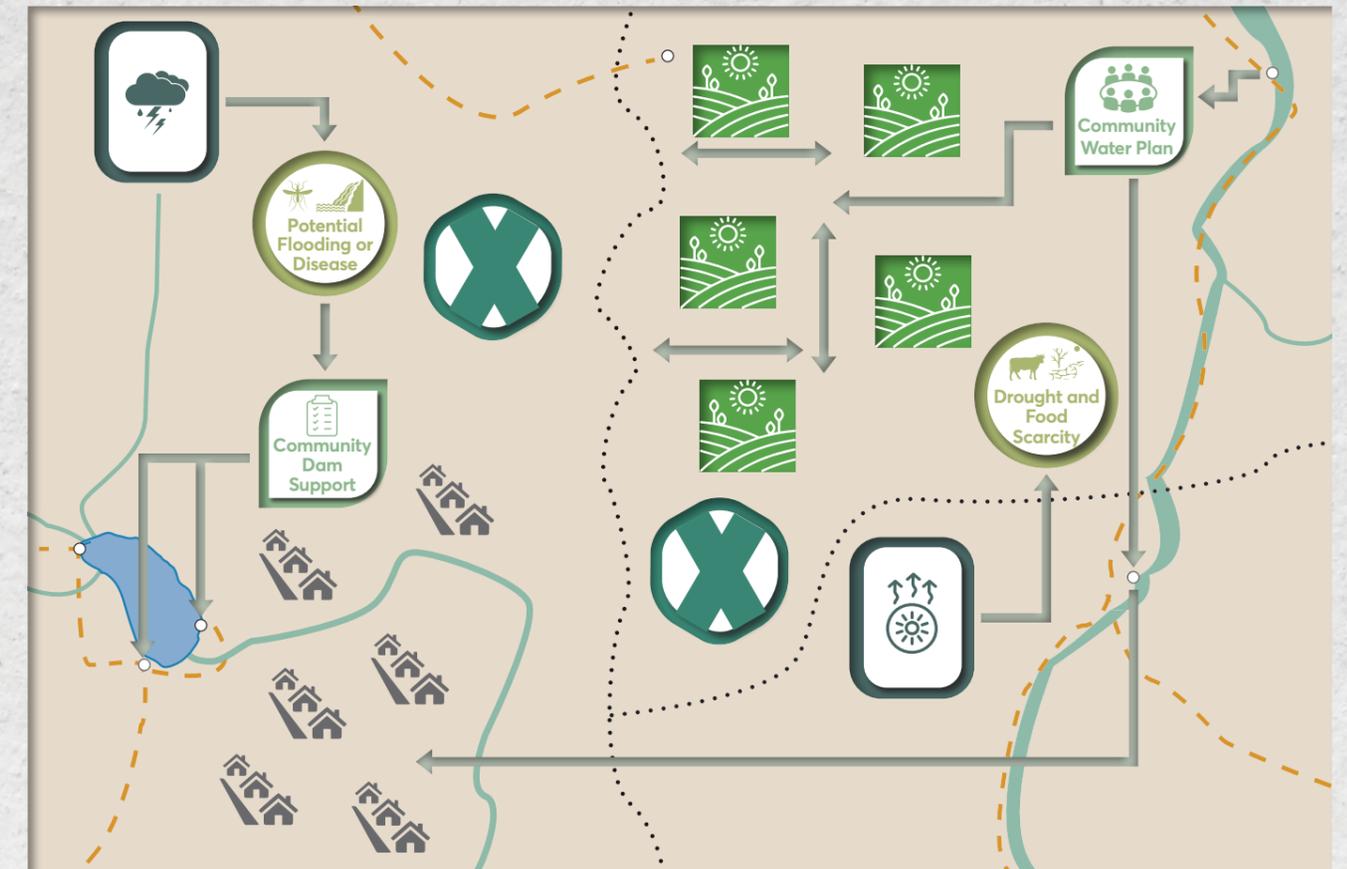
As communities become sensitised, community members should have a better understanding of key stakeholders and partners to engage in the development and support of risk assessment.

Tips to Identify Key Stakeholders within and around the Community

At least **3 factors** should be considered:

1. **Diversity**: the gender, age, ethnicity, religion, political opinions, cultural and traditional practices, and other differences that may be present in each locality
2. **Horizontal Relationships**: the relevant partners at the same social/organisational level or in the same industry
3. **Vertical Partnerships**: the relevant partners at different social/organisational levels or in different industries, institutions, and sectors

Tips to Bring All Relevant Internal and External Stakeholders 'On Board'

All relevant stakeholders from local to international levels should be involved, own work jointly, and be invested in its implementation. Ensuring integrated feedback requires strategy in the process and partnership with trained facilitators and coordinators. *See Exhibits 3 and 4.*

Tips to Map Common Information Sources and Key Community Structures

Community structures are present in every community and may or may not address the questions of climate and security jointly or separately. The key role is to identify all community structures and then jointly develop and implement data collection, analysis, and dissemination methods that fit into a local community.

Community structures are spaces, social channels, institutions, and organisations (formal or informal) where important individual and collective capacities for risk assessments can be found (i.e., local infrastructures for peace, early warning mechanisms, climate and/or security networks, traditional leadership structures. *See Annex B for simple definitions*

Community structures can be permanent and situational. For climate security risk assessments, permanent community structures should take the lead because they are often the most efficient and reliable for integrating climate security concepts into ongoing work.

Tips to Obtain Free and Informed Buy-in from the Community

Community consent is usually obtained through a process of dialogue with the community leaders and major stakeholders. While the process of going through community gatekeepers does not take away from the importance of the individual's understanding of and willingness to participate in the research, it adds an element of security in traditional societies where communal consciousness and living is the norm.

Often such consent does not require a written agreement. However, signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the community assessment leads and relevant local and community partners can ensure the sustainability of efforts in the long term. See Annex B for Template.

STEP

UNITING KEY ACTORS AROUND A COMMON GOAL

02

STEP 2 EXAMPLES AND TIPS:
UNITING KEY ACTORS AROUND A COMMON GOAL

Exhibit 3: Example of a Stakeholder Mapping:

There are two types of stakeholders generally relevant to developing risk assessments.

Internal Stakeholders:	External Stakeholders:
(Community Members directly impacted by climate change and fragility) *Internal stakeholder examples:*	(People with decision-making and support capacities) *External stakeholder examples:*
• Local Climate and Peacebuilding Experts • Traditional Community Leaders • Community Activists • Special Interest Groups: ▷ Youth, Women, Elderly, Ethnic Minorities, Differently Abled, Etc. • Local Government Offices • Private Sector Companies and Cooperatives • School Students and Community Groups	• Non-Governmental Organisations • Local and National Governments • Field UN Representatives • International, Regional, and Sub-Regional Organisations • Global Humanitarian, Development, and Peacebuilding Partners • Donor and Cooperation Partners • Non-Local Private Sector Companies • Parliamentarians • Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
Potential Roles: ▶ Understanding Most Relevant Local Concerns ▶ Building Broad Local Support Structures ▶ Developing Consistent Collective Action Towards Collective Goals	Potential Roles: ▶ Ensuring Sustainability of Efforts ▶ Maximising the Probability of Effective Response Systems ▶ Mainstreaming Meaningful Engagement at All Levels of Action on Climate and Security

Exhibit 4: Steps for Bringing Internal and External Stakeholders 'On Board'

• Start with Hosting Community Dialogues or Forums

1.1 Consider these six initial questions[4]:
1. What is the goal of the climate security risk assessment?
2. What are the community capacities and constraints for a risk assessment?
3. What are the scale and focus areas of the risk assessment?
4. What types of data will be used in the risk assessment?
5. How participatory and inclusive can the community make the assessment?
6. How will climate change risks be measured and tracked?

1.2 Clarify the foundation, the framework, and the main objectives:
1. Clarify the concept of climate security and the meaning of core basic terms such as climate change hazard, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity.
2. Discuss the relationships between climate change hazard, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity.
3. Discuss current and potential climate and security opportunities and solutions.

• Create Forms of Stakeholder Engagement:

2.1 Discuss possible forms of engagement.
    Relevant stakeholders can be:
       o Incorporated into a Core Team
       o Invited to Accompany the Risk Assessment Process
       o Asked to Provide Feedback at Key Moments (i.e., during community consultations and follow-up dialogues)

2.2 Define roles for diverse stakeholders.
These roles should be adapted to the needs of a community and community members.

• Develop a Work Plan and a Clear Timeline:

3.1 Form a core team to represent the diverse voices of the community.
This core team should include all possible voices within a community and regularly rotate its members to include the voices that are often silenced.

3.2 Develop a work plan with clear stages, actions, timelines, and responsibilities.
A work plan is a written document designed to streamline a project. The goal is to create a visual guide for objectives, tasks, and partners who have specific responsibilities. This plan should include a clear timeline and should be updated based on progress and need.

• Organise a "Let's Get Started" Meeting to Formally Kick Off the Process:

4.1 Establish clear communication channels.
The "Let's Get Started" meeting presents the plan and activities to the main stakeholders and outlines a timeline to enable planning.

4.2 Conduct technical training for partners.
A "Let's Get Started" can also be used to review the Work Plan with the implementation team who will collect and analyse data. At that time, more community perspectives on the relationships between climate change hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacity can also be gathered.

*Any information gathered during a "Let's Get Started" meeting should be included in the Work Plan.

• Fully Engage the Project and Review Progress Regularly:

Clear communication with key stakeholders and the broader community about the objectives, tasks, and progress should be consistent.
Obtaining feedback at all stages of the process is critical as it helps to generate data, build collective buy-in, and ensure local ownership.

Note: The process of putting a risk assessment requires engagement, and everyone involved may need to support a variety of discussions at every stage.

4. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, 2021.

O nce all relevant stakeholders from the local, sub-regional, and other levels are invested in a clear work plan, the methods for the risk assessment will be developed. These methods should be based on a combination of qualitative data gathered from key stakeholders and reliable quantitative data collected through on-the-ground stories, reflection forums, and other sources.

Tips to Design Ways to Collect, Store, and Share Data

It is important to ensure that the data is stored in one place and can be analysed quickly. Data should be well organised, accurate, and as complete as possible to enable holistic analysis across the short, mid, and long term. Communities have two options for data collection: 1) develop your own table/template for data collection (See Exhibit 1); and 2) consider integrating the gathered climate security data into existing early warning or other data collection systems. *See Exhibit 5.*

Tips to Finalize Sources and Streams of Reliable and Relevant Data

Utilising Available Data: The process of data collection should start with listing stakeholders who already collect relevant data on climate change hazards, adaptive capacities, and vulnerabilities through existing mechanisms.

Where to Access Climate, Environmental, and Security Data?
   ▷ Climate Change Hazards (Impacts & Events): Governmental and Research Institutions.
   ▷ Local Vulnerabilities: Regional, National, Political, and Economic Reports; Private Industry Reports; INGOs, Regional Organisations, and Educational Institutions.
   ▷ Adaptive Capacities: International, Regional, and National Reports and Community Interviews.

Getting New Data: Capturing local perceptions on climate and security risks can be accomplished through interviews, group discussions, community surveys, or a combination of these approaches. While risk assessment captures new data, it also contributes the existing mechanisms collecting long-term data.

▶ In areas marked by conflict, collecting security data may pose challenges - for example, due to a lack of local transparency, coordination, or trust. In these cases, clearly and tactfully explain the reasons for the data collection, how the data will be used, and the benefits of reliable data.

For best results, data should track how different population groups are affected. This allows for adequate and efficient responses by decision-makers. Some population categories include age, gender, income/occupation, race and ethnicity, geographic location, and level of education, among others relevant to a community. *See Exhibit 5.*

STEP
DEVELOPING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS METHODS

03

STEP 3 EXAMPLES AND TIPS: DEVELOPING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS METHODS

Exhibit 5: Design Ways to Collect, Store, and Share Data including Diverse Groups

OPTION 1 - Develop Your Own Table/Template for Data Collection:

Datasheets can be developed to systematically capture the data from diverse groups in a community using community-specific climate and security signals.

Potential Climate Hazards	*Questions Asked:* *How does this community experience climate change?* *What are the climate hazards for this community?* *What are the key climate pressures and shocks in the local area?*	*Effects on:* Youth Women Rural residents Urban residents General Population *[add community-specific category]*
Vulnerabilities	*Questions Asked:* *What are problems at the local level that make climate hazards worse?* *What are the critical facilities, roads, and areas at risk?* *What community members are most at risk?* *In what ways do climate hazards make existing vulnerabilities and conflict worse?*	*Effects on:* Youth Women Rural Residents Urban Residents General Population *[add community-specific category]*
Adaptive Capacities	*Questions Asked:* *How can this community address its specific climate hazards together?* *Are there climate impact support agreements inside and outside the community?* *How do individual community members respond to climate hazards?* *What synergies exist between climate impact responses and peacebuilding objectives?* *What are the climate indicators that can alert the community ahead of hazards?*	*Effects on:* Youth Women Rural Residents Urban Residents General Population *[add community-specific category]*

Local Climate Security Risks	*Questions Asked:* *Based on community answers to the above questions, what are the climate impact-driven and chronic risks to community security?* *How have climate hazards previously contributed to conflict inside and outside the community?* *What resources have been affected by climate security hazards?*	*Effects on:* Youth Women Rural Residents Urban Residents General Population *[add community-specific category]*

***Before collecting data using Option 1,** think about two things:*

1. Develop easy reference mechanisms to make sure that data can be quickly analysed once it is gathered[5]; and,
2. Agree on who will be authorised to access and use the data.[6]

OPTION 2 - Consider Integrating the Gathered Climate Security Data into Existing Early Warning or Other Systems:

If a local early warning system or another data collection system already exists, you can use its information by integrating new information. Local partners should consult with coordinators of existing systems to identify the best way of integrating the gathered climate security data, bearing in mind the relationships between three factors.

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5. This could involve, for instance, colour coding handwritten notes or printed transcripts according to predetermined categories (for example: 'storm', 'drought', or 'natural resource dispute')

6. *Internal access* only includes only direct partners; *limited access* includes local actors, decision-makers at the national or global level; *public access* opens an opportunity for everyone to access data.

After the relevant data is collected, the next step is to analyse the information. Identifying community-specific pathways linking climate and security, and the potential solutions to community climate risks should be a primary focus. The analysis should also answer many questions through "triangulation" – organising the data and then relating the different types of information to produce new insights.

The main goals of data analysis can be grouped into three categories: 1) identify community needs; 2) determine populations at the greatest risk, and 3) facilitate learning and action by decision-makers around risks. All goals can be accomplished by asking specialists and community members what the data means to them, compiling a list of climate impact solutions, and then rating the solutions' effectiveness based on past experience and strategies.

Things to Keep in Mind When Analysing Localised Data & Identifying Local Solutions:

▷ Given intensifying climate change, past experiences may not always predict future issues (e.g., droughts may become longer and more difficult to predict).
▷ Consider different timelines and the related potential impacts (e.g., one-year, three-year, and five-year plans for what can and is expected to happen in a local area).
▷ Rate hazards to support community prioritisation. This can be done through the creation of a simple table where identified risks are ranked from highest to lowest.
▷ Map key responses for each risk and consider how to apply the risk responses in decision-making (e.g., who should do what, when, and where?).
▷ Identify current and potential responses (e.g., What currently happens, and what needs to happen for these climate-related security risks to be addressed?)
▷ Ensure that final plans are accessible format to everyone regardless of expertise and experience (e.g., include graphs, charts, maps, and diagrams aimed for understanding by specific groups).
▷ Present any plans and lessons learned to local participants while also sharing with decision-makers at sub-regional, regional, and other levels.

Note: Remember this risk assessment is a multi-stakeholder multi-stage process, and so it is vital to create simple measures that help to consistently integrate feedback from stakeholders during and after each stage.

Tips for Identifying Target Audiences

When preparing to share data analysis, think about who has the power to enact a change from the list of stakeholders identified in **Step 1.** The target audience could include stakeholders who are currently responding to relevant risks, as well as those who might be able to support existing responses (e.g., local leadership, aid workers, etc.).

Tips for Identifying Concrete Avenues to Use the Analysed Data

There are many methods to analyse and present data, including the **2 - Stage Option** below. Consider talking with internal and external stakeholders on what would be their preferred way or format to get information. *See Exhibit 6.*

STEP
ANALYSING COLLECTED DATA AND IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS
04

STEP 4 EXAMPLES AND TIPS:
ANALYSING COLLECTED DATA AND IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS

Exhibit 6: A Proposed Option for the Use of Data

STAGE 1 – Community Mapping

Community Mapping engages community members by asking them to identify climate change hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities within their communities and surrounding areas, and create a visual representation of their communities with that in mind. This can be done through drawing, text, painting, collaborative diagrams, or in any way that will create a clear climate security map for a local community.

The analysis of the collected data could result in a series of community maps that highlight the main risks and solutions within a particular community.
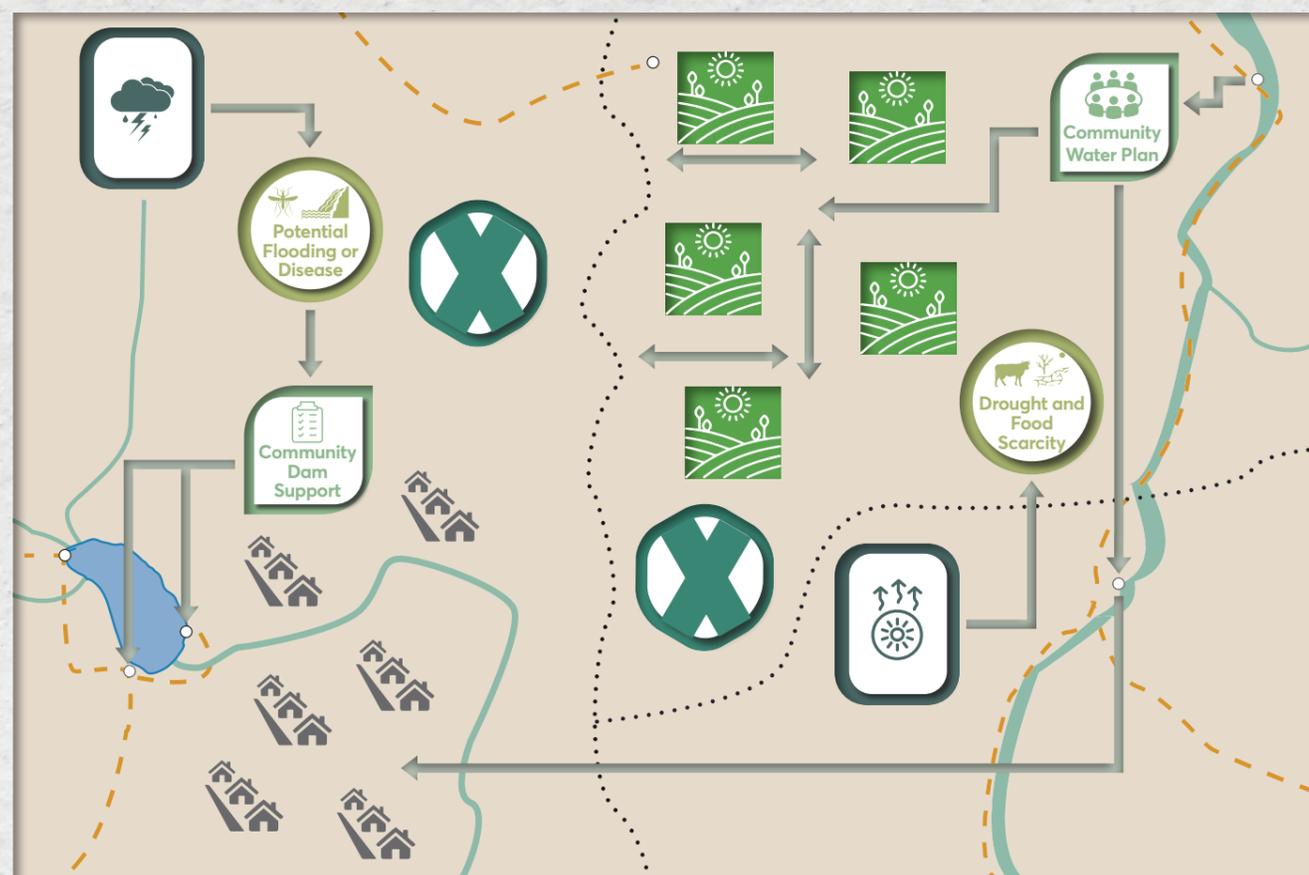
STAGE 2 - "What-If Scenarios"

A "What-if Scenario" is a set of predictions based on collected data on 1) how the links between climate change and security might develop and 2) how relevant stakeholders should respond to a specific situation or outcome.

Developing a What-if Scenario:
► Answer three questions:
  ▷ If scenario "A" happens - for example, no rain falls for five weeks - what would be the cost and effects to the local area and local community?
  ▷ How should the community prepare and respond?
  ▷ Who needs to be part of the preparation and response?

Options for Developing What-if Scenarios:
► The process can be collaborative, collective, or a mix:
  ▷ A Collaborative Option asks a group of participants to think about what could happen if different scenarios were to take place while considering community vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities. This option can provide predictions on several key risk factors at the same time.
  ▷ A Collective Option invites individual participants to create scenarios based on themes and storylines identified in the climate security risk assessment. After collecting the individual scenarios, additional interviews/focus group activities and analysis can help provide predictions on key risk factors over time.

Note: Different Options may be more effective at different times and with different groups of people, always be willing to switch as necessary and use the most effective option.

After you have analysed your gathered data and put it into an easily understandable and accessible format, start sharing it. Communicate your findings, including potential solutions, to every audience – including national, regional, and global policymakers – in their preferred way, as identified in **Step 4**. When local communities effectively communicate what recommendations they have, what adaptation measures they need, and what mechanisms can deliver the needed solutions in a way that contributes positively to peace, those communities can optimize the value of external stakeholder support to the local people and environment.

Tips for Listing the Reasons for Communicating with Target Audiences

Tailor your asks and recommendations specific to each stakeholder's mandate. This includes considering each stakeholder's political situation. Be as specific as possible about why you want to share your data analysis and solutions with a particular stakeholder. Clear reasons can include: 1) informing ongoing work, 2) getting political support, 3) fundraising, or 4) influencing policy.

Tips when Making Strategies for Communicating and Persuading All Audiences

There are many ways to share your findings. You can use several tools, tactics, and formats to reach your audience. See Exhibit 7. Remember to track which tools, tactics, and formats work best with different stakeholders to improve a community's ability to share effectively and efficiently.

Tips for Scheduling Regular Follow-Ups

Communicating findings and asks once using one or more of the tools and tactics is insufficient. It is crucial to follow up. You can follow up eloquently by offering your help to decision-makers in putting your recommendations into practice and providing additional information when asked or appropriate. Consider interviewing stakeholders and community members regularly to show commitment and continued interest, as well as to understand their experiences and views of the risk assessment.

Possible questions to local, national, (sub-)regional and global decision-makers can include:
- What impact did this assessment have?
- Was this assessment beneficial to the community? Why or why not?
- How can it be improved?

The answers can help improve recommendations and position you as an important partner.

STEP

COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

05

STEP 5 EXAMPLES AND TIPS:
COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

Exhibit 7: Tips on Communicating Findings with Decision-Makers

Presenting results via dialogue (consistent or one-time)
- ► Valuable presentations include:
- ▷ Clear Visuals
- ▷ Simplified Language
- ▷ Interactive Games
- ▷ A Great Narrative or Story - including real people and experiences

Distributing report(s) via email as attachments
- ► Quality email distribution includes:
- ▷ Prior discussion with recipient stakeholders
- ▷ Clearly defined asks
- ▷ Indications most important information to the recipient stakeholders

Sharing information through a dedicated and interactive website
- ► Quality websites include:
- ▷ Clear Messaging
- ▷ Consistent Functionality - No missing links or blank pages
- ▷ Easily Seen and Used Buttons/Links for Data and Reports

Spreading the word on social media by tagging critical stakeholders
- ► Quality social media content includes:
- ▷ Tailoring for Target Audiences
- ▷ Making Information Clear, Practical, and Actionable

Using community information channels to share key findings (i.e., radio, TV, newspapers)
- ► Quality press releases include:
- ▷ Short Summaries with Bullet Main Points that can be discussed live or in writing
- ▷ Access to databases and important information
- ▷ Indication of how well-known the findings are and who they affect

Participating in national, regional, and global policy dialogues/events
- ► Quality participation includes:
- ▷ Clarity of Position - geographically, policy, solutions, and asks
- ▷ Flexibility in Discussing Main Points
- ▷ Willingness to Build Coalitions of Support

ANNEX A – GLOSSARY
OF KEY TERMS

Adaptation Plan – The digital, physical, or word-of-mouth strategy to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, security risks, and the interaction between those impacts and risks. An adaptation plan should include concrete roles for community members and stakeholders, actionable tasks, and the ability to be broadly shared, evaluated, and optimized over time. An adaptation plan often comes from a risk assessment. If a risk assessment is not fully consulted and neighbouring communities considered, it may lead to maladaptation for and within all communities.

Adaptive Capacity – A community's ability to adjust to climate change (including climate variabilities and impacts), limit potential damages, take advantage of opportunities to improve (i.e., building water barriers), cope with the aftermath, and remain stable in a climate or security emergency (i.e., flood evacuation plans, neighbourhood support agreements, or secure communication networks).

Climate Change Hazards – Impacts and events that occur because of climate change (i.e., rising sea level, changing weather patterns, or increasing average temperatures). Many areas are vulnerable to compound impacts – multiple hazards that occur at the same time (i.e., droughts and locusts before a massive rainfall). As climate change intensifies, communities may have to bear multiple compound impacts and have less time to recover between shocks. Various levels of exposure to climate change will often cause disparity between communities and across regions, so the type and severity of impact at the local level should always be recorded.[7]

Climate and Security Expert Networks – These are often led by institutions that condense and simplify scientific knowledge and expertise. They help strengthen a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities of addressing climate-related security risks.

Climate Security Risk Assessment – A process of identifying local climate hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities paired with conflict analysis to determine what climate and security adaptations may be needed for a community to thrive under the presence of climate change and security risks. It can be a critical initial step in emergency preparedness, which enables relevant stakeholders to eventually and whenever possible mitigate, plan, prepare, and deploy appropriate resources to a community in support of all its people, particularly its diverse groups.

Early Warning Systems – Early warning systems are an essential tool for risk management and disaster preparedness that help save lives and minimize the potential impact of disasters. These systems monitor, forecast, and predict climate and security risks. They help communicate with and prepare communities to reduce risks in advance of hazardous events. Usually, these systems are run by community leaders and are supported by national or regional coordinators.

Local Infrastructures for Peace – Peace Committees operate at the local level and are made up of representative leaders from diverse groups - including political parties, civil societies, religious institutions, and businesses. These leaders possess the necessary resources to help coordinate community strengths to respond to local vulnerabilities.

Local Vulnerability – How a person, group, or community can be harmed by climate change hazards (i.e., how a family might be affected by increased drought due to temperature rise). The impact of climate change on human security can be strengthened or weakened by different social, economic, and political factors, including the inclusiveness of local people in government and access to global support systems and services.

Maladaptation – Actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, including via increased greenhouse gas emissions, increased, or shifted vulnerability to climate change, more inequitable outcomes, or diminished welfare, now or in the future.

Risk(s) – Potential losses of life, injuries, destruction of or damage to assets, and other potential negative outcomes to a system, society, or community.

Solution – A tested and confirmed way of addressing a climate, security, or climate security risk(s) that causes no collateral damage to a community's members, ecosystem, economy, infrastructure, or community structures when implemented. Interim solutions are answers that are still being tested or need adjustment to be most effective.

Traditional Leadership Structures – These take different forms depending on the local culture. For example, indigenous people in North America use 'peacemaking circles'. The circles are based on the equality of all participants and the principle of sharing power rather than wielding it over one another.[8] Meanwhile, some Cameroonian villages follow traditional chiefs who carry out tasks like elections and tax collection.[9]

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7. *See* for more information, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (2021) 'Guidance on Good Practices in Climate Change Risk Assessment'. Available at: https://ccme.ca/en/res/riskassessmentguidancesecured.pdf

8. Winters, Alaina. 'Using Talking Circles in the Classroom,' *Heartland Community College*. Available at: https://www.heartland.edu/documents/idc/talkingcircleclassroom.pdf

9. 'Cameroon: Bassa Traditional Chiefs…' Refworld, 2022. Available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/42df60cd11.html

ANNEX B – SAMPLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Can be translated into National/Local Languages as Relevant

Memorandum of Understanding

Between
(Government Partner)
and
(Local Partner)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the *(government partner(s))* and the *(local partner(s))* to implement an integrated climate security risk assessment in *(specific locality(ies))*.

Background
Climate and security risks can increase vulnerability and undermine the adaptive capacity of local structures that create stability. Climate change hazards can affect human security in *(specific locality(ies))* by *(add preliminary impacts discussed in inception dialogues)*. Increased fear, conflict, poverty, and breakdown of social and cultural ties can all occur as a result.

An integrated and inclusive climate security risk assessment will document how climate change contributes to fragility and how fragility contributes to climate change in *specific locality(ies)*, with the goal of contributing local expertise to finding nationally led solutions to climate-related security risks.

Purpose
This MOU will (explain the mutually agreed purpose/goals of partnership here. i.e., 1) grant (government partner)'s permission to conduct integrated local climate security risk assessment, 2) establish communication channels between the (government partner) and the (local partner) throughout the process and 3) outline the follow-up channels for informing adaptation plans and/or response strategies.)

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:
(List and describe the activities that are planned for the partnership and who will do what)

Reporting
The *(local partner)* will send monthly updates to the *(government partner)* via *(method of communication)*. *(Include here how often in-person reporting and evaluation meetings will take place, who will officially evaluate effectiveness and adherence to the agreement, and when evaluations will happen)*.

Funding
This MOU is not a commitment of funds. Both parties will dedicate their respective resources to carry out the terms of this agreement.

Duration
This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from *(list partners)*. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the *(list partners)* and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from *(list partners)* this MOU shall end on *(end date of partnership)*.

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