

## LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

# Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming at the Green Climate Fund

“If sustainable livelihoods are the foundation for human security and for successfully coping with and recovering from stresses and shocks, then building capacities that support sustainable livelihoods can build resilience and may also mitigate conflict.”\*

**Summary:** Projects aimed at enhancing livelihoods through climate-resilient adaptation measures in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCS) can carry high operational risks. They may exacerbate conflict by impacting the complex interactions between socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors that drive fragility, conflict, and violence. For example, such projects may inadvertently disrupt power dynamics amongst groups by implementing livelihood projects that favor one group over another. Being insufficiently aware of conflict dynamics may also undermine the achievement of the project’s goals and its potential to contribute to peace and stability — peace and stability being important pre-requisites for achieving long-term success in climate action. Hence, a comprehensive understanding and application of conflict-sensitive approaches in these projects is not just advisable, but essential for their overall success and sustainability.

### 1. How Fragility, Conflict and Violence Relate to Livelihoods

Conflict affects the livelihoods of people and communities in FCS by exacerbating poverty, undermining sustainable development,<sup>1</sup> and

impeding access to livelihoods. Conflict can disrupt livelihoods due to displacement, the destruction or loss of agricultural assets and land, and the breakdown of socio-economic

\* Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU. ‘Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.’ Guidance note. 2022. p. 8

<sup>1</sup> MercyCorps, ‘Conflict, Livelihoods, and Resilience’, 03 November 2015, p. 1, [URL](#)

networks.<sup>2</sup> Ultimately, it limits access to essential resources.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, conflict-related breakdown of formal governance systems and the deterioration of public services significantly impact individuals' and communities' ability to sustain their livelihoods in FCS.<sup>4</sup>

For many groups and communities in FCS, agriculture is the most viable livelihood. The sector drives economic growth and is an integral part of food systems. In the context of fragility and conflict, these food value chains are highly susceptible to disruptions, which can leave farmers at risk of losing their livelihoods.<sup>5</sup> Farmers seeking to diversify their livelihoods in these contexts might be forced to abandon their land and assets, depriving them of the means to sustain themselves and their families.<sup>6</sup> Food systems are also highly vulnerable to environmental stress and climate-induced food shortages, resource competition, and grievances related to social issues and food prices.<sup>7</sup> Consequently, conflict-related disruptions in food value chains jeopardize both food security and economic stability within affected communities, leaving them vulnerable to malnutrition and hunger.<sup>8</sup> According to a report by the World Bank, severe food insecurity is twice as prevalent in FCS, where over 240 million people may be affected by 2027.<sup>9</sup> Conflicts also hinder trade, destroy critical infrastructure, and consequently limit income generation and economic growth

opportunities.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, conflict situations frequently give rise to inflation, unstable exchange rates, and limited access to credit, further impacting economic activities.<sup>11</sup>

## Key Terms

**Integrated climate-security programming** is the holistic approach of embedding both climate and security considerations into the entire lifecycle of projects—from design and implementation to evaluation. This strategy aims to guarantee that climate finance initiatives are not only environmentally sustainable but also conflict-sensitive.

**Conflict sensitivity** is an organizational process where knowledge of the peace and conflict dynamics in the operational context is gathered through a locally informed perspective and applied to avoid unintended negative consequences and maximize positive effects on peace. Conflict-sensitive practices exist on a spectrum between 'do-no-harm' (e.g., conflict assessment, safeguards, redress mechanisms, etc.) and 'do-good' (e.g., peace responsiveness, peace co-benefits, peacebuilding, etc.).

The inability to secure a livelihood in FCS often forces communities to adapt diverse coping mechanisms to survive. In contexts of protracted conflict, people and communities can revert to opportunity-seeking migration as a coping mechanism.<sup>12</sup> This can lead to tensions between “newcomers” and host communities, sometimes culminating in violent conflict.<sup>13</sup> People may also be forced or incentivized to engage in illicit activities or join

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<sup>2</sup> Justino, Patricia, 'On the Links Between Violent Conflict and Household Poverty: How Much do We Really Know?', PSN: Comparative Poverty (Topic), 2007, p.1, [URL](#)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Schafer, Jessica, 'Supporting Livelihoods in Situations of Chronic Conflict and Political Instability: Overview of Conceptual Issues', Overseas Development Institute, Londong, December 2022, p. 26

<sup>5</sup> FAO, 'The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security', UN, Geneva, 2017, p. xiii, [URL](#)

<sup>6</sup> MercyCorps, 'Conflict, Livelihoods, and Resilience', 03 November 2015, p. 9, [URL](#)

<sup>7</sup> Delgado, Caroline, Vongai Murugani and Kristina Tschunkert, 'food systems in conflict and peacebuilding efforts,' *SIPRI*, June 2021. p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> FAO (2017), p. 1

<sup>9</sup> World Bank, 'Fragility, Conflict & Violence' 27 April 2023, [URL](#)

<sup>10</sup> Justino, Patricia, 'On the Links Between Violent Conflict and Household Poverty: How Much do We Really Know?', PSN: Comparative Poverty (Topic), 2007, p.8, [URL](#)

<sup>11</sup> MercyCorps, 'Conflict, Livelihoods, and Resilience', 03 November 2015, p. 19, [URL](#)

<sup>12</sup> USAID, 'Livelihoods & Conflict: A Toolkit for Intervention', USAID, Washington DC, 2005, p. 4, URL

<sup>13</sup> MercyCorps, 'Conflict, Livelihoods, and Resilience', 03 November 2015, p. 2, [URL](#)

armed groups as an alternative source of livelihood.<sup>14</sup> This can then strengthen war economies and prolong conflict as people become dependent on them as new sources of income. Consequently, understanding the effects of conflict on livelihoods is crucial for implementing projects that address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of affected populations.

Securing the livelihoods of people and communities in FCS also brings opportunities for projects to contribute to peace and stability. For example, food and agricultural production provides a pathway for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to add value to the host community economy, feed themselves, and earn incomes.<sup>15</sup> Improving food system resilience, both in terms of

combatants. Food system resilience can also increase private sector incentives to invest in small-scale farming, a critical component of restoring, building, and protecting food systems in FCS.

The following subsections provide an overview on the operational risks that may arise from a project in FCS, including how projects in these contexts might exacerbate ongoing conflict dynamics or ignite new ones, and what peacebuilding opportunities may be worth exploring. The brief also provides guidance on how to incorporate conflict sensitivity in the project based on a literature review of publicly available material, including a list of guidance notes and case studies for further reading.

## 1) Lessons from GCF Projects

The **Gums for Adaptation and Mitigation in Sudan** project provides valuable insights into the importance of community collaboration and proactive conflict management. A significant achievement of this initiative was the renegotiation of 400 km of stock routes, achieved through a cooperative effort involving local government, farming communities, and pastoralists. To further mitigate potential conflicts, 60 km of these routes were specifically identified as potential conflict hotspots. They were demarcated with markers on the ground to avoid conflict between different user groups. Furthermore, the project established mobile stock route co-management teams to serve as a bridge, fostering communication, and cooperation among various stakeholders, thereby ensuring the harmonious use of resources.

resilience to climate shocks as well as to conflict, can provide jobs and reliable livelihoods, especially for youth and former

<sup>14</sup> Tarif, Kheira, 'climate change and violent conflict in West Africa: Assessing the evidence,' *SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security*, February 2022, p. 12.

<sup>15</sup> Townsend, Robert, et al., 'Future of Food: Building Stronger Food Systems in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence Settings,' *The World Bank*, 2021, p. 12.

## 2. Risks and Opportunities for GCF Projects on Livelihoods

### 2.1. Security Risks Impacting Projects

Given that livelihoods of people and communities are severely impacted by conflict in FCS, several diverse conflict dynamics and resulting risks may negatively impact GCF projects related to strengthening community resilience to shocks. Conflict and climate shocks may negatively reinforce each other in many FCS. Some of the risks related to livelihoods of people and communities are highlighted below:

**Insecurity and alternative livelihoods:** Fragility, conflict and violence in areas where GCF-funded projects are implemented pose significant safety and security risks for project participants. Conflict can delay or even prevent project implementation.<sup>16</sup> For instance, the presence of armed groups may lead to violence against community leaders,

<sup>16</sup> GCF, 'Funding Proposal: FP203: Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximizing the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia for Achievement of Climate Goals', 11 April 2023, p. 171. URL

jeopardizing the achievement of project objectives.<sup>17</sup> Armed groups can also provide an alternative source of livelihood for people and communities, especially for young persons who are faced with fewer alternatives, and who might be more susceptible to recruitment strategies. In the Lake Chad region, for example, armed groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) have successfully recruited new members by offering loans or salaries, especially in communities exposed to climate change and environmental degradation.<sup>18</sup>

**Forced displacement and population movements:** Conflict and climate shocks drive displacement and population movements in FCS. Regardless of their cause, population displacement and movement present challenges to project implementation. The affected community or population may be forced to relocate, making it difficult to implement livelihood-strengthening projects. Violence and climate shocks leading to internal displacement of people and communities can also lead to widespread environmental degradation by forcing internally displaced persons (IDPs) to exploit already scarce natural resources or to undertake unlawful activities to generate sufficient income.<sup>19</sup> Such illegal activities include stealing livestock, kidnapping for ransom, dealing drugs, trading weapons and human trafficking, among other activities associated with armed groups.

**Limited infrastructure, access, and mobility:** People living in FCS often suffer from limited access to basic services and restricted freedom of movement due to damaged

infrastructure and insecure environments. Materials and equipment necessary for successful project implementation may get damaged or destroyed due to conflict dynamics.<sup>20</sup> Conflict-related destruction or damage of infrastructure or essential resources in FCS can therefore prove to be a major risk to GCF projects, affecting the timely delivery of project inputs, resources, information, and services, and hindering the implementation and effectiveness of resilience-building initiatives.

**Fragile governance and institutional capacities:**

Conflict-affected areas often suffer from weak formal governance structures and limited institutional capacities. This can impede a state's capacity to deliver services to its citizens. Highly dynamic conflict environments with political instability and weak governance also present a high risk to climate action planning and to securing long-term success of livelihoods-strengthening projects.<sup>21</sup> For example, government officials or powerful individuals may actively block access to essential services for a specific group of people while facilitating access to others.<sup>22</sup> This can also be observed in less direct ways such as when services are structured in a way which is more accessible to one group due to location, culture, or way of life. This can cause

**“There is an increased number of FCS that are experiencing the triple-threat of climate change, conflict and health emergencies, which are all having negative effects on livelihoods.”**

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> Tarif, Kheira, 'climate change and violent conflict in West Africa: Assessing the evidence,' *SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security*, February 2022, p. 12.

<sup>19</sup> Cazabat, Christelle, 'Multidimensional impacts of internal displacement,' *IDMC Thematic series, The ripple effect: economic impacts of internal displacements*, October 2018, p. 7.

<sup>20</sup> Schafer, Jessica, 'Supporting Livelihoods in Situations of Chronic Conflict and Political Instability: Overview of

Conceptual Issues', Overseas Development Institute, London, December 2022, p. 12.

<sup>21</sup> OECD, 'Managing Risks in Fragile and Transitional Contexts: The price of success?', *OECD Publishing, Conflict and Fragility*, 2012, p. 28. URL

<sup>22</sup> USAID, 'Livelihoods & Conflict: A Toolkit for Intervention.' *USAID. Washington DC*, 2005, p. 3.

livelihoods to be constrained for certain groups. The arising inequalities increase the likelihood of conflict. Projects risk contributing to this dynamic when working with service-providing institutions in FCS.

**Climate change, conflict, and health emergencies as a triple-threat:** There is an increased number of FCS that are experiencing the triple-threat of climate change, conflict and health emergencies — all of which negatively affect livelihoods. For example, in Somalia, people and communities have suffered through an erratic cycle of droughts and floods in recent years, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation complicated by three decades of armed conflict.<sup>23</sup> As in most FCS, people have limited time to adapt because the shocks are so frequent and severe. Projects seeking to improve resilience to climate shocks risk being undermined by their vulnerability to conflict shocks.

## 2.2. Security Risks Generated by Projects

Livelihoods-related projects in FCS also risk worsening pre-existing conflict dynamics and creating new tensions. For example, they can create competition over natural resources, reinforce existing power imbalances, or be perceived as biased. The following sections outline some of the most common risks related to livelihoods projects:

**Competition over limited resources:** Livelihood programs that focus on improving access to natural resources or on generating income may inadvertently create or exacerbate existing resource-related conflicts, such as disputes over land, water, fisheries, or minerals.<sup>24</sup> For instance, climate-adaptation

programming aiming to improve agricultural livelihoods by improving water management for a specific group may intensify tensions and trigger conflicts among different groups or communities, particularly in areas where water is scarce or access is unequal.<sup>25</sup>

**Disempowerment and gender imbalance:** In many FCS, men and women have differing customary roles within agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. In Nigeria's farming communities, for example, women

### 2) Lessons from GCF Projects

In the International Union for Conservation of Nature project **Towards Ending Drought Emergencies: Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Rangelands**, a data-driven approach emphasizes the integration of diverse information streams into a dashboard for integrated landscape planning and conflict prevention. Moreover, by strengthening local institutions, the project bridges the gap between investors and local land managers, thus mitigating potential land-related conflicts. The initiative also prioritizes training in conflict management and emphasizes the importance of dialogue, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development in fragile ecosystems.

traditionally provide support to male relatives, which means women's livelihood strategies are generally defined by their male family members; as such, women often have less agency in defining adaptation strategies.<sup>26</sup> In cases where adaptation measures are adopted due to changing natural resource availability, either due to conflict, climate change or both, these gender roles change with them. Women's workloads may increase. Women may also play a larger role in income generation and decision-making around livelihood strategies.<sup>27</sup> Projects must be aware

<sup>23</sup> Hanger, Christoph. 'Climate and conflict shocks destroy livelihoods and leave many displaced,' *ICRC*, 04 September 2022.

<sup>24</sup> Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU, 'Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods,' *Guidance note*, 2022, p. 33.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>26</sup> Tarif, Kheira, 'climate change and violent conflict in West Africa: Assessing the evidence,' *SIPRI Insights on Peace and Security*, February 2022, p. 8.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

and sensitive to gender risk negatively impacting women and girls. Adaptation measures may create heavier workloads, without accompanying empowerment for women.

**Disruption of local power dynamics:** Livelihood projects may alter existing power structures and dynamics within communities, leading to various security risks in FCS. Challenging existing power dynamics or local norms by, for instance, introducing new actors, resources, or decision-making processes, can lead to tensions and conflicts among different groups competing for control over resources, benefits, or decision-making authority.<sup>28</sup> For example, projects promoting equal employment opportunities for women may challenge local norms and increase existing tensions if not implemented in a contextualized, gender-responsive manner. Similarly, engaging with certain communities over and above others when selecting local partners may deepen existing conflicts. Projects may exacerbate tensions if they are perceived as “biased” towards one side of the conflict over another.

**Economic deterioration and environmental impacts:** Economic activities initiated or supported by livelihood-resilience programs, such as market-based initiatives, livelihood diversification, or income-generation projects, may exacerbate existing economic inequalities, disproportionately benefitting certain individuals or groups, leaving others feeling marginalized and neglected. This situation may occur when local stakeholders have not been consulted or when project resources are poorly distributed. Stakeholder consultation is critical when introducing new economic activities. Project staff must have a

comprehensive understanding of conflict dynamics. Otherwise, projects may lead to market distortions, conflicts over control and access to economic resources, and negative environmental impacts, including unsustainable resource extraction and land degradation. These unintended consequences may drive conflict in FCS, particularly following the project’s end.<sup>29</sup>

### 2.3. Peace Responsiveness Entry Points

Climate adaptation efforts related to the livelihoods of people and communities can foster peace and stability. Projects should apply key best practices and standards of peacebuilding investment.<sup>30</sup> They should be designed and implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner, mitigating conflict drivers by addressing the challenges faced by people and communities in FCS. Examples of such steps include:

**Improving natural resource management:** In FCS, natural resource management (NRM) is often a driver of fragility and conflict. However, it can also be a pathway for peace. Projects can advocate for more capable, accountable, transparent, and responsive decisions around the use of natural resources. They can promote opportunities for more inclusive dialogue around management between government and civil society actors.<sup>31</sup> Building and maintaining buy-in from stakeholders can, in turn, support more balanced management of finite natural resources, such as land, forests, and water.<sup>32</sup> Projects can contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts by improving technical capacities through technical support and training. They can

<sup>28</sup> Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU, ‘Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.’ *Guidance note*, 2022, p. 16.

<sup>29</sup> OECD, ‘Development Assistance and Approaches to Risk in Fragile and Conflict Affected States’, OECD, 2014, p. 20, [URL](#)

<sup>30</sup> See for example [Peace Bond Standard](#) (2023), Version: 2.0 June, Finance for Peace, Geneva, Switzerland. / [Peace Equity](#)

[Standard](#) (2023), Version: 2.0 June, Finance for Peace, Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>31</sup> UN-HABITAT, - ‘Strengthening Capacity for Conflict-Sensitive Natural Resource Management,’ *Toolkit*, 2012, p. 7.

<sup>32</sup> Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU. ‘Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.’ *Guidance note*. 2022. p. 33.

improve peacebuilding capacities by, for example, advocating for and engaging in open consultation, dialogue, and active listening activities with stakeholders.<sup>33</sup> Developing rules and mechanisms for restoring and enabling equal access to natural resources is also vital for improving livelihoods and resilience.

**Capacity-building and creation of local economic opportunities:** Livelihood support can build capacity and create employment and economic opportunities, for instance through livelihood diversification, agricultural support, training, and establishing private sector partnerships. If implemented in an inclusive and conflict-sensitive way, sustainable employment opportunities are essential for long-term peacebuilding efforts as they help address certain root causes of conflict such as economic grievances, inequality, and marginalization. Providing training and viable economic alternatives creates livelihood opportunities for local communities. Projects should also foster inclusion, encourage trust-building, and support overall socio-economic development in FCS.<sup>34</sup>

**Adopting participatory approaches, trust-building and knowledge-sharing:** Engaging with local communities and re-building trust and social ties between different groups can enable greater success of livelihood support projects.<sup>35</sup> Local approaches to livelihood adaptation can enable the transfer of climate mitigation knowledge to local communities, building social cohesion between farmers, local politicians, and the government. For example, the FAO's farmer-field school approach is centered around building local farming capacity, improving food security and

livelihoods, and raising awareness.<sup>36</sup> Projects that bring communities together can also help create stronger social networks, fostering community resilience to conflict and/or climate-related shocks.<sup>37</sup>

### 3. Recommendations

#### 3.1. Conflict-sensitive Programming in the GCF

There is a wealth of guidance and tools on delivering conflict-sensitive livelihoods projects for people and communities, adequately addressing challenges as they arise:

**Planning the project:** The GCF Initial Investment Framework may benefit by applying conflict sensitivity to the investment criteria, in particular 'needs of the recipient community', 'sustainable development potential' and 'country ownership'. A robust application can then proceed, based on a strong understanding of the project area's geographic characteristics. The analysis should focus on land ownership, land grabbing, land governance and other conflict dynamics, as well as existing land reform initiatives.<sup>38</sup> To do this, baseline analysis and stakeholder mapping can illuminate understanding of the problem, as well as whom it affects and how.<sup>39</sup> Documenting these different realities experienced by different groups can improve the inclusivity of programming and help identify potential solutions and already-existing efforts. This stage can further ensure that the next steps are conflict-sensitive by defining a co-benefit

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<sup>33</sup> UNEP. 'Toolkit and guidance for preventing and managing land and natural resources conflict: Land and conflict.' 2012, [URL](#)

<sup>34</sup> WFP West Africa, 'Building peace and livelihoods in Sierra Leone', World Food Programme Insight, 06 January 2020, [URL](#)

<sup>35</sup> USAID, 'Livelihoods & Conflict: A Toolkit for Intervention,' *USAID, Washington DC*, 2005, p. 11.

<sup>36</sup> FAO, 'Farmer field school approach,' *webpage* (accessed on 15 September 2023, [url](#))

<sup>37</sup> Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU. 'Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.' Guidance note. 2022. p. 8-19.

<sup>38</sup> CDA. 'Conflict Sensitivity in Land Governance: The Do No Harm Framework and Other Tools for Practitioners of Land Activities.' Cambridge, MA: CDA Collaborative Learning Projects. March 2022. p. 18-19.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 52-53.

indicator and acquiring free, prior, and informed consent from stakeholders.

**Implementing the project:** During the rollout of activities, operational risks can be mitigated by robust early-warning systems for land conflict and insecurity, engagement with stakeholders, and contingency funding for security-related delays. Some planning tools can help mitigate the risks of contributing to insecurity and operational risks by extension. For example, projects should clearly define the beneficiaries, staff, and partners, focusing on understanding the gendered dimensions.<sup>40</sup> They should start with the least controversial issues to build confidence between stakeholders.<sup>41</sup> At this stage, negative impacts can be further prevented by regularly engaging stakeholders and addressing their concerns, in particular through adequate grievance and compensation mechanisms. Activities avoid worsening security when implementing staff and partners display positive behavior patterns to beneficiaries<sup>42</sup> and when potential negative impacts of resource application are accounted for.<sup>43</sup> Activities can further leverage co-benefits through regular and open communication, which can bring stakeholders closer, reveal opportunities for peace dividends and raise awareness for durable dispute resolution mechanisms. Finally, a well-designed exit strategy can ensure that land conflict does not reignite and that resilience to compounded climate-related risks is increased.<sup>44</sup>

**Monitoring and evaluating the project:** During and after activities, project staff should monitor operational risks and the project's impacts on the security context. Data on the evolution and emergence of sources of tension and cohesion, land issues, and the

implementation of conflict sensitivity measures is particularly relevant. It may also be helpful to assess perceptions of the project and potential negative effects of resource allocation (whether verified or perceived), and the perception of RAFT (Respect, Accountability, Fairness and Transparency) on the part of beneficiaries.<sup>45</sup>

**Throughout the project:** Conflict resolution training for staff, a designated conflict and peace focal point, consistent inclusion of stakeholders, and information transparency can make the project more conflict-sensitive across the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases of the project.<sup>46</sup>

### 3.2. Peacebuilding Actions Related to Livelihoods of People and Communities

**Promoting benefit-sharing and governance structures:** Promoting equitable access and usage of natural resources can reduce competition and increase the trust and legitimacy of institutions. For example, projects can implement transparent and inclusive governance systems that ensure fair distribution of benefits. In practice, projects can conduct a conflict analysis to examine the role of natural resource. They can assess the skill gaps in government and civil society that need to be addressed. The project can then be designed around how to promote a sustainable and effective NRM system, rooted in broad participation of stakeholders, inclusive decision-making, transparency, and accountability.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., p. 56.

<sup>41</sup> UNEP. 'Toolkit and guidance for preventing and managing land and natural resources conflict: Land and conflict.' 2012.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., p. 39-41.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., p. 37-38.

<sup>44</sup> European Commission. Guidance notes on conflict sensitivity in development cooperation – An update and supplement to

the EU staff handbook on 'Operating in situations of conflict and fragility.' Publications Office of the European Union. 2021.

<sup>45</sup> CDA, 2022, p. 39-41.

<sup>46</sup> USAID. 'Operational Guidelines for Responsible Land-based Investment.' March 2015. (url)

<sup>47</sup> UN-HABITAT, - 'Strengthening Capacity for Conflict-Sensitive Natural Resource Management,' *Toolkit*, 2012, p. 7.

**Build upon existing GCF policies:** GCF has a network of policies available for accredited entities (AEs), including issue-specific policies. For example, the Indigenous People Policy (IPP) aims to prevent harm and bring positive changes to vulnerable communities. The policy addresses land tenure conflicts in detail, which are highly relevant for livelihoods. The IPP prescribes AEs to work with indigenous people to prepare project-specific plans that ensure the recognition of property rights in accordance with applicable laws and with "customs, traditions and land tenure systems."<sup>48</sup>

**Supporting livelihood diversification:** Projects can support livelihood diversification, providing economic opportunities for displaced populations, while also addressing youth unemployment. This can involve training and capacity-building programs to develop skills related to sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, eco-tourism, renewable energy, and other nature-based enterprises. By providing viable economic alternatives, projects can reduce the pressure on forests for subsistence, contributing to forest conservation efforts.

**Securing land rights:** Land is a vital socio-economic asset which determines livelihoods, wealth, and power.<sup>49</sup> There is no 'one size fits all' approach when it comes to securing land tenure rights. The approach will depend on the legal, cultural, and environmental conditions in the specific context.<sup>50</sup> Projects can support processes that enhance communities' abilities to exercise their rights to land by conducting tailor-made, context-specific and participatory

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land use planning. These efforts ensure that local stakeholders, including communities, indigenous peoples, displaced populations, authorities, tribes and other groups have legal recognition and ownership of land. Improving land tenure rights also requires specific gender considerations. Women heads-of-household may lack formal rights to land and property in many FCS, limiting their opportunity to create sustainable livelihoods.<sup>51</sup>

**Fostering government engagement and partnerships with civil society:** Fostering partnerships with stakeholders is a key objective when designing and implementing projects related to livelihoods. Partnerships with organizations already operating in the focus country can provide more in-depth knowledge of the impacts of fragility, violence, and conflict.<sup>52</sup> These partnerships should be pursued with the intent of increasing transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in decision-making and governance procedures, which are vital for improved NRM.

**Implementing mitigation measures:** When deciding on where to implement the project, exclusion considerations should be carefully evaluated based on conflict risk. For example, during proposal preparation for a GCF project in Colombia,<sup>53</sup> project staff identified the presence of armed groups in certain regions. They decided to exclude some activities in these areas to mitigate project risks. However, the project still engaged in those areas prioritized by the Colombian government's national peace agreement, highlighting that it was possible to operate in insecure

<sup>48</sup> GCF, 'FP160: Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project,' 2021, p. 15.

<sup>49</sup> OECD. 'Land and violent conflict,' *Issues brief*, 2005, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> Wehrmann, Babette and Andrea Lange, 'Secure Land Tenure Rights for All: A key condition for sustainable development,' *GIZ*, July 2019.

<sup>51</sup> OECD. 'Land and violent conflict,' *Issues brief*, 2005, p. 3.

<sup>52</sup> IFAD. 'Addressing fragility through a focus on rural livelihoods: a reflection on IFAD's role,' 2023, p. 5.

<sup>53</sup> FP203: Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximizing the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia for Achievement of Climate Goals.

environments under certain circumstances.<sup>54</sup> While the mitigation measures available are highly context-specific, all viable options should be considered before excluding certain areas. Project staff should balance the needs of people and communities in these areas — usually the ones most affected by violence, poverty, illegal economies, and institutional weakness — with the risks to success of the project.

**Remaining engaged in conflict contexts:** When operating in FCS, projects might be faced with sudden increases in the level of violence. Under these circumstances, projects will have to decide whether they suspend or continue operations. In most cases, projects can remain engaged if they adapt conflict-sensitive measures to their operations. For example, the Swiss Agency for Development and

Cooperation (SDC) was implementing a livelihoods program in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPK), north-western Pakistan, when suddenly the conflict escalated and the districts where the program was being implemented were getting over-run by armed militants. Faced with the decision of whether to stay or to leave, SDC decided to remain engaged. They strengthened context-sensitive measures in order to continue operations.<sup>55</sup> The decision brought with it multiple benefits as this enhanced the role of SDC as a reliable and committed partner, and helped SDC to better prepare its own staff to manage challenges related to changing conflict dynamics in the future.<sup>56</sup> Projects should consider such measures during the proposal preparation. Projects should be prepared for the escalation of fragility, conflict, and violence.

## 5. Recommended Reading:

- Adelphi, UNEP, and the EU. 'Addressing climate-related security risks: Conflict sensitivity for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.' *Guidance note, toolbox, and Monitoring and Evaluation note*. 2022.
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<sup>54</sup> GCF, 'Funding Proposal: FP203: Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximizing the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia for Achievement of Climate Goals', 11 April 2023, p. 171.

<sup>55</sup> SDC. 'Engagement in conflict contexts coping strategies for improving livelihoods in Pakistan,' *Asia Brief*, 2012, p. 1.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. p. 3.

USAID. 'Livelihoods & Conflict: A Toolkit for Intervention.' *USAID. Washington DC.* 2005.

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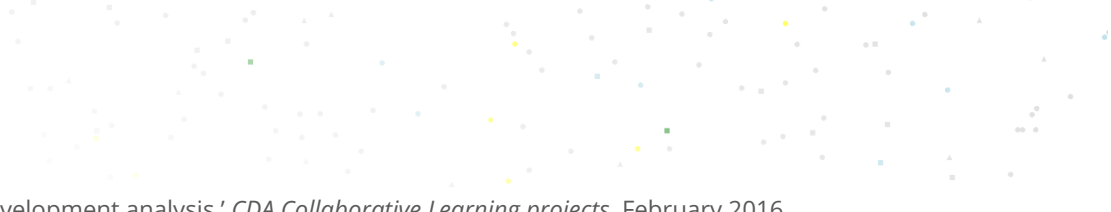
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## About the Series:

The “Guidance Notes for Peace-Informed Programming at the Green Climate Fund” is a thematic series published by CGIAR in partnership with Interpeace, with the support of TrustWorks Global. The series consists of eight briefs that provide sectoral risk analyses and guidance tailored to the Green Climate Fund's Result Areas. Recognizing the complex nexus between climate change and peace, the series aims to provide actionable strategies to assist both Accredited Entities and Direct Entities to understand and manage project risks as well as to maximize opportunities to promote peace. The series is published as part of the Climate Security Programming Dashboard for Climate Finance (**CSPDxCF**). The dashboard is an all-in-one solution for preliminary conflict-sensitive assessments and tailored guidance, targeting projects funded by international financial institutions and climate funds.

## CGIAR-Interpeace Partnership:

CGIAR Focus Climate Security and Interpeace collaborate at the intersection of climate finance, conflict, and peace. Drawing from CGIAR's expertise in climate science and Interpeace's experience accompanying peacebuilding processes, they aim to enhance conflict-sensitive climate finance and improve the delivery of funds towards communities most at risk.

## Related Briefs and Toolkits:

- Climate Security Programming Dashboard for Climate Finance (**CSPDxCF**).
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Health, Food, and Water Security.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Livelihoods of People and Communities.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Infrastructure and Built Environment.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Energy Generation and Access.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Buildings, Cities, Industries, and Appliances.
- Guidance Note for Peace-Informed Programming: Forest and Land Use.

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