



International Alert.



A New Climate For Peace – Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks

Wilson Center, June 22nd, 2015

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July 2013: G8 meeting on climate change and security recommends to:

- (1) Establish a knowledge platform
- (2) Commission an independent study

April 2014: G7 commission adelphi, the Wilson Center, International Alert and EUISS

April 2015:

- After a year of research and consultations in 10 countries, the consortium handed over the report
- G7 foreign ministers **welcome the report** and **establish a working group** to review the recommendations

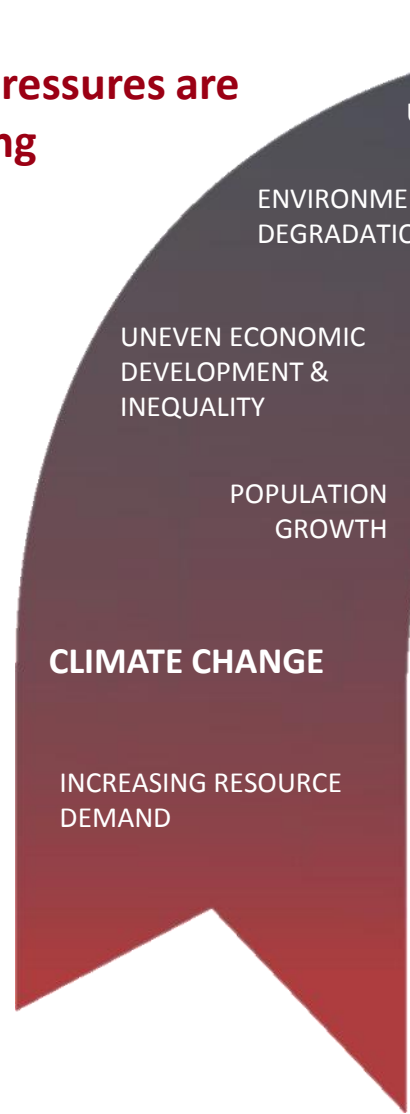


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Seven compound climate-fragility risks threaten states and societies



1. Global pressures are increasing



2. Creating 7 compound risks that threaten states & societies





Local resource competition

As the pressure on natural resources increases, competition can lead to instability and even violent conflict in the absence of effective dispute resolution.

Examples:

- Pastoralist conflicts in Mali or Sudan
- Conflicts around extractive resources in Latin America



Queue of containers next to a water source in Farchana, UNHCR refugee camp. Credits: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures



••• Livelihood insecurity and migration

Climate changes will increase the human insecurity of people who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, which could push them to migrate or turn to illegal sources of income.

Examples:

- Livelihood insecurity contributing to political instability in Syria
- Grievances and livelihood insecurity spurred the rebellion in Northern Mali in 2012



Credits: Robert Wallis / Panos Pictures



Compound Risk 3



••• Extreme weather events & disasters

Extreme weather events and disasters will exacerbate fragility challenges and can increase people's vulnerability and grievances, especially in conflict-affected situations.

Examples:

- Unequal emergency response to flooding in Thailand 2011
- Disaster response to the Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, helped resolve a long-standing conflict



Credits: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce



❖ Volatile food prices & provision

Climate-induced food insecurity and volatile food prices may spur protests, rioting, democratic breakdown, and civil conflict.

Examples:

- Arab Spring in Egypt 2011
- Social unrest in Cameroon and Haiti 2008



Protest against high food prices, Mexico 2007

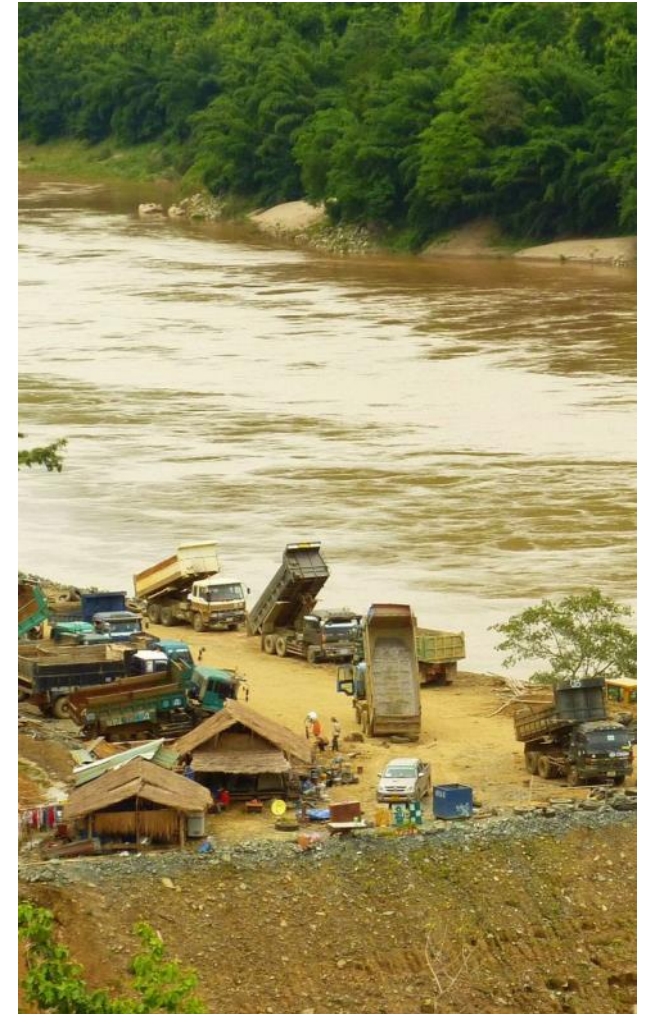


❖ Transboundary water management

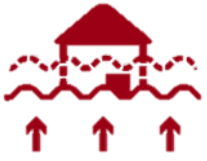
Transboundary waters are frequently a source of tension; as demand grows and climate impacts affect availability and quality, competition over water use will likely increase the pressure on existing governance structures.

Examples:

- Tensions between the Nile riparians
- The Indus river and intra-state tensions in Pakistan and India



Construction of the Xayaburi dam
Credits: International Rivers/flickr.com

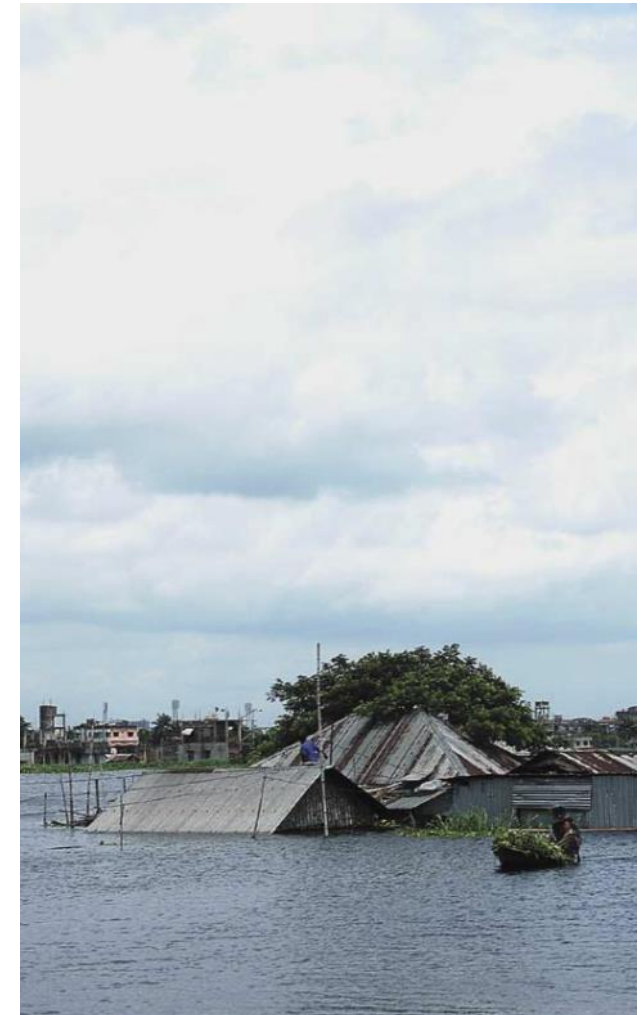


••• Sea-level rise & coastal degradation

Rising sea levels will threaten the viability of low-lying areas even before they are submerged, leading to social disruption, displacement, and migration, while disagreements over maritime boundaries and ocean resources may increase.

Examples:

- Coastal erosion and Migration in Bangladesh
- Kiribati: A nation under threat



Flooding in Dhaka, 2004
Credits: ICDDRB



❖ Unintended effects of climate policies

As climate adaptation and mitigation policies are more broadly implemented, the risks of unintended negative effects—particularly in fragile contexts—will also increase.

Examples:

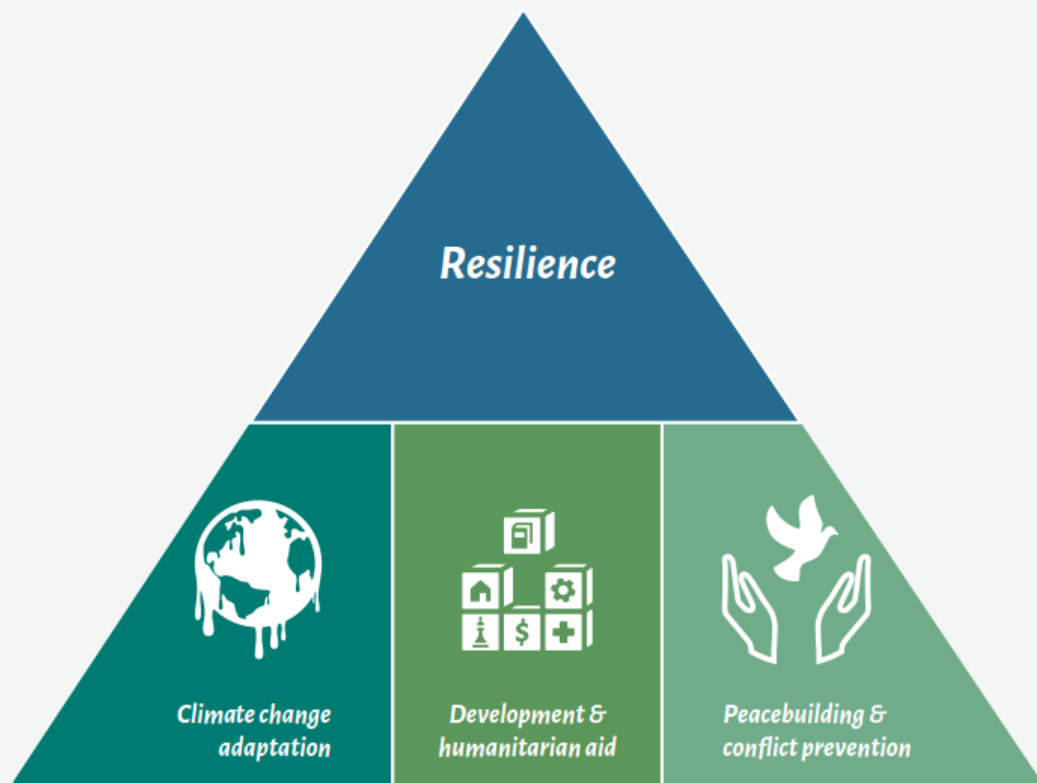
- Biofuels and “land grabbing”
- Resource consumption of green technologies



Palm trees. Credits: Paul Smith/Panos Pictures

Compound risks need integrated answers

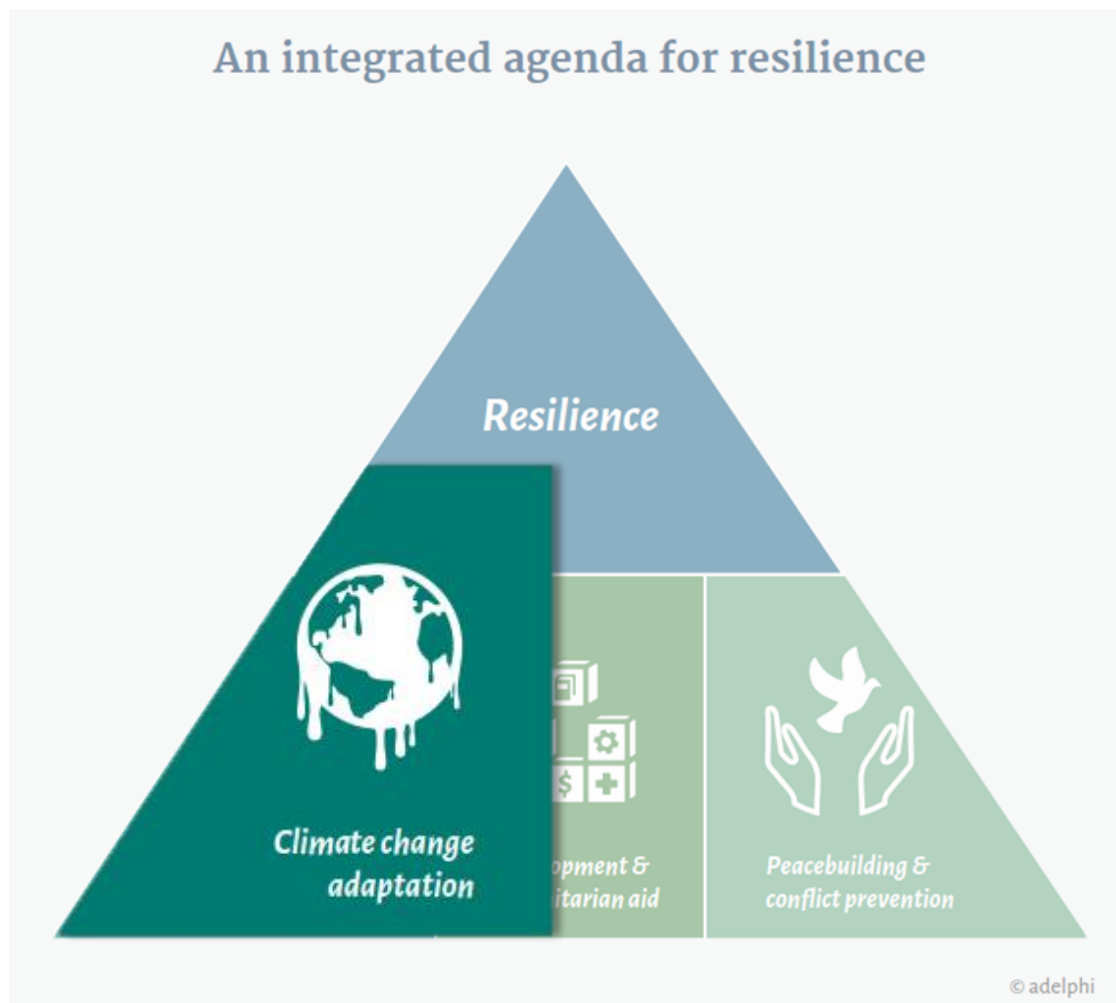
An integrated agenda for resilience



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- Break down sectoral barriers
- Integrate key policies and approaches across key sectors
- Resilience as the overarching goal

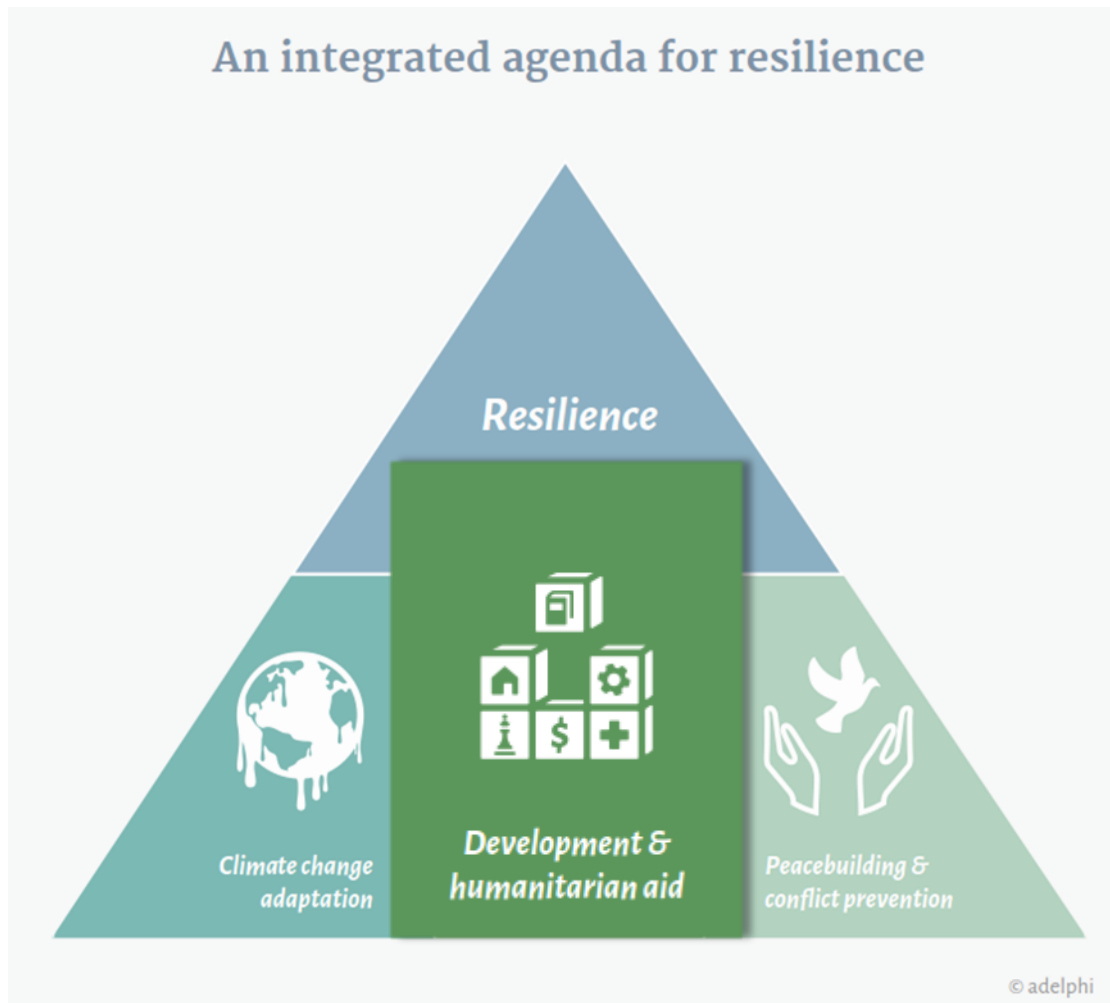
❖ Key policy gaps and barriers



Climate change adaptation

- Climate adaptation plans rarely address fragility and conflict comprehensively.
- Countries with situations of fragility are less well positioned to access climate finance due to the limits of their internal capacity.

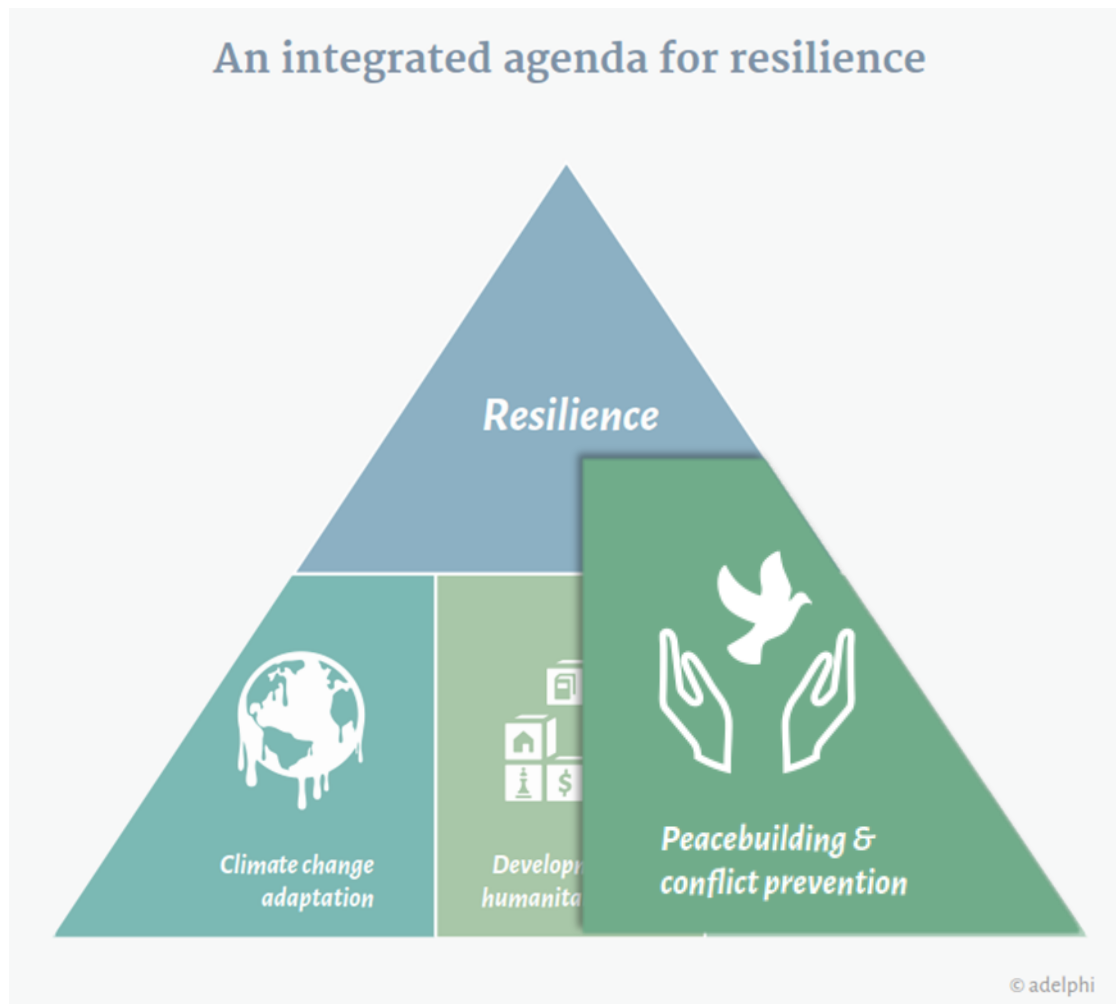
❖ Key policy gaps and barriers



Development and humanitarian aid

- “Climate-proofing” development work has started, but is not yet standard, especially in fragile situations.
- Countries experiencing fragility often lack absorptive capacity, increasing aid volatility.

❖ Key policy gaps and barriers



Peacebuilding and conflict prevention

- Climate change is not yet sufficiently incorporated into fragility or peace and conflict assessments.
- Few financing instruments for peacebuilding and conflict prevention earmark funds for addressing climate and fragility risks.

- G7 governments have to commit to designing and implementing integrated responses to climate-fragility risks.





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