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# Introducing the CGIAR MENA Regional Climate Security Hub: An Agenda for Climate, Peace, and Security

**Frans Schapendonk**

Climate, Peace, and Security Specialist with the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security Team

# What is CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security?



## CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security

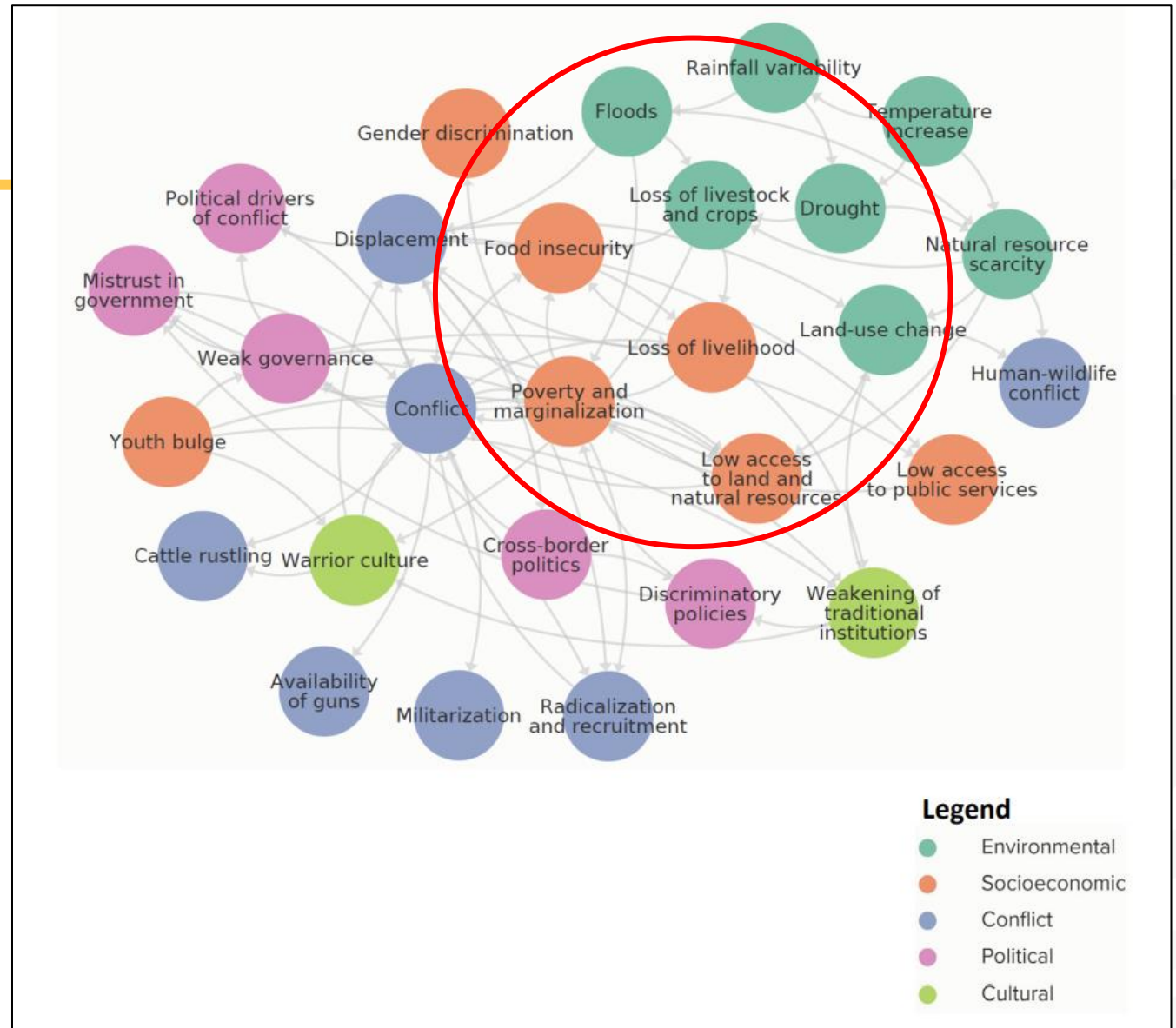
50 scientists working across 16 countries  
Methods: Network analysis, spatial analysis,  
econometric analysis, policy and governance  
analysis, text mining, qualitative assessment

**Integrated evidence, analysis, and policy advice** on how climate affects issues of conflict and security, specifically by examining impacts on **land, water, and food systems**

# The Climate, Peace, and Security Nexus: The Role of FLWS

Food, land, and water system-related variables are situated at the frontline of cascading risk processes – interventions here can help make responses to insecurity more cooperative

Climate impacts interact with existing capacities and vulnerabilities to **produce or exacerbate human** insecurity, which may increase the risk of violent conflict – but may also create openings for transformations towards peace



Medina et al., 2022

Managing 'competing' priorities: SDGs must be achieved collectively and in a coherent manner

Transformation of agri-food systems to become more resilient to climate change (SDG 13) and increase production to reduce hunger (SDG 2) necessarily involves addressing drivers of inequality, vulnerability, and conflict (SDG 16)

Building a **positive peace**: not just the absence of conflict, but addressing root causes of inequity and barriers to human development



Negative Peace	Positive Peace
absence of violence	structural integration
pessimistic	optimistic
curative	preventive
peace not always by peaceful means	peace by peaceful means

Source: Galtung (1964), Grewal (2003)



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## Transformative Resilience in Food, Land, and Water Systems

Addressing inequalities in access to water, land, and food

Fostering climate-smart agriculture solutions to generate resilient food production systems

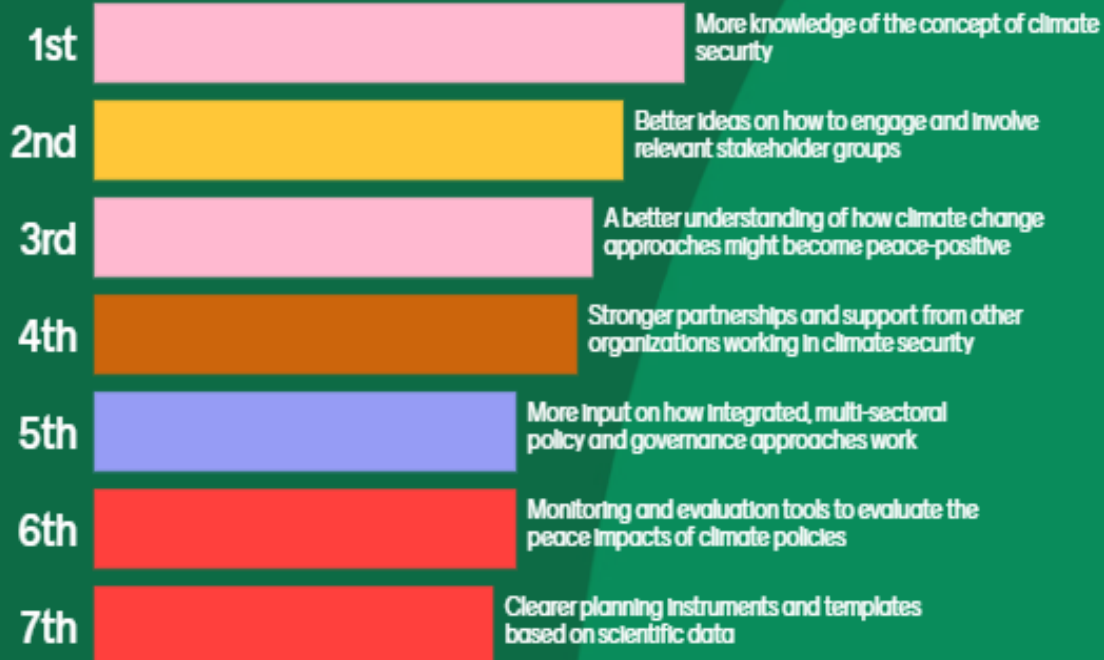
Supporting the development of inclusive and just agricultural value chains

Ensure that transformations are participatory, sensitive to local contexts, and value the interests of different groups



# What is Needed?

Please sort in order of importance: To support peace-positive climate policies and programs, I need



**Data and evidence:** we need to continue to build the evidence base regarding the intersection of climate, peace, and security in the Arab region

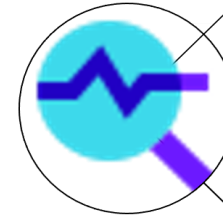
**Capacity building:** we need to equip those developing and implementing policies with the knowledge, tools, and approaches to ensure conflict-sensitivity and peace responsiveness

**Policy advocacy:** we need to support the development of conflict-sensitive climate policies and climate-sensitive HDP nexus approaches



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# Objectives of the CGIAR MENA Regional Climate Security Hub



Generate evidence on how food, land, and water systems can act as an intermediary space where climate change may undermine human security and potentially engender an increased risk of conflict and instability (**evidence**)



Contribute to the formulation of policies and practices that address unsustainable practices and inequalities to work towards inclusivity, resilience, and positive peace in the MENA region (**policy**)



Develop with partners knowledge and teaching modules in order to raise awareness, promote appropriate ways of working, and build key capacities around climate, peace, and security



Facilitate access to climate finance, integrate conflict sensitive and peace responsive approaches in climate finance tools and mechanisms, and help secure funding for the regional climate security agenda (**finance**)

# Evidence Generation (I): Research Initiatives



INITIATIVE ON  
Fragility, Conflict,  
and Migration

## Fragility, Conflict, and Migration Initiative (FCM)

- Leveraging sustainability principles in food, land, and water systems for the development of durable solutions to climate vulnerable, fragile contexts and situations of protracted displacement
- Promote sustainable food, land, and water system solutions to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus



## Evidence Generation (II): Conflict-Sensitive Transition from Humanitarian Assistance to (Climate) Resilience in Jordan

- Protracted crises in region, combined with other displacement factors
- Long-term displacement situations
- Jordan has a population of 11.3 million
- Jordan is hosting around 3 million officially registered refugees (2 million Palestinians, 750,000 Syrians, estimated 1.3 million unregistered)
- Over 80% of refugees live in host communities, not in camps
- Migrants – work, e.g. Egyptians, agricultural labor
- Pre-existing resource scarcity: One of most water scarce countries in the world (around 70 m<sup>3</sup> / person / year = absolutely water scarce)

How can support the co-generation of peaceful livelihoods in host communities?





- Immediate livelihoods of displaced persons/refugees are often informal and depend on food-land-and water systems and agricultural economies, which climate change is endangering
- Humanitarian and development programme modalities are not always conflict sensitive and can, through their very design, worsen the relationships among host communities and refugees (perceived uneven distribution of benefits, insufficiently participatory, unsustainable and poorly integrated with local government efforts)
- Landscape or area-based approach to rural development involving all population groups within territory (local agro-industry, value chain development and management, improved market access, platforms for collective action)
- Displaced persons returning to their countries of origin across the region will require conflict-sensitive planning, especially around access to food, land, and water systems



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# Capacity Building



CCCPA's Climate Responsive Programming  
for Sustaining Peace training course



ARDD Mainstreaming CPS Nexus



AGNES's Climate Governance, Diplomacy,  
and Negotiations Leadership Program

Planning the  
development of a **region-  
specific teaching and  
capacity building module**  
to train technical policy  
staff and decision-makers  
on climate, peace, and  
security

# Unlocking Climate Finance for the Region

MENA region has received just 11% of total available climate finance over the period 2000-2020 – accessing available funds remains an issue

More than 90% of climate finance approved in the region is allocated to mitigation activities (concentrated into mega projects in countries such as Egypt and Morocco), with adaptation lagging behind substantially

CGIAR is an **accredited GCF entity** (we can submit projects with lowest levels of ESS risks up to 50 million USD). Currently developing proposals around the Climate Smart Village (CSV) programmes.



# Priorities for the MENA Region to achieve SDGs

Transforming FLWSs to become more climate-resilient and improve their production capacity by definition demands the promotion of positive peace and addressing drivers of conflict and insecurity (SDGs 2, 13, and 16 together)

To do so, we need to generate data and evidence on the complexities of compound risks and their impacts on peace and security AND map opportunities for where transformative approaches and interventions can result in co-benefits across multiple SDGs

We need to do a better job linking evidence to policy and programme development and implementation – appropriate institutional arrangements and processes should be in place to allow for the mainstreaming of climate, peace, and security considerations

We need to continue to develop innovative ways to operationalise the HDP nexus approach to promote climate action in contexts characterised by fragility, conflict, or protracted displacement – these areas cannot be left behind

We need to develop more bankable adaptation projects and develop the institutional programmes/pipelines within national governments to ensure a steady funding stream from vertical funds such as the GCF

