



# Climate Security and Environment

## CONTEXT

Somalia bears the brunt of climate change with an estimated 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Climate change effects such as droughts, flash floods, erratic rainfall, sandstorms and increased temperature are being experienced across Somalia. The first sentence needs to be changed as only a percentage of IDPs are climate-related. We could say: "Somalia continues to bear the brunt of climate change with droughts, flash floods, erratic rainfall, sandstorms and higher temperatures becoming increasingly frequent."

According to a new World Bank report, the frequency of droughts in Sub-Saharan Africa almost tripled between 2010 and 2019. The frequency of storms has also quadrupled while the frequency of floods has risen tenfold.

Climatic changes fuel herder-farmer conflicts, contributing to instability as settled communities and livestock herders must compete for fewer resources. In 2019, 53,000 people were displaced from their homes due to crop failure and reduced livestock profitability as a result of drought. In 2020, 75 per cent of new displacements across the country were due to climate-related events such as droughts and flooding.

These factors combined increase the risks of violent conflict. Studies have not found a direct causal link between climate change and conflict. Rather, researchers argue that climate change may exert an indirect and conditional effect on conflict risk. The fact sheet on Somalia of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) identifies multiple pathways through which climate-related change interacts with political, social and environmental stresses to worsen existing vulnerabilities and tensions. These tensions could potentially undermine development gains, impact ongoing conflict dynamics, and disrupt fragile peace processes. Additional pressures, such as COVID-19, compound the risk of climate-related conflict. This makes a country like Somalia even more vulnerable to shocks and setbacks.

## FACTS AT A GLANCE



4°C

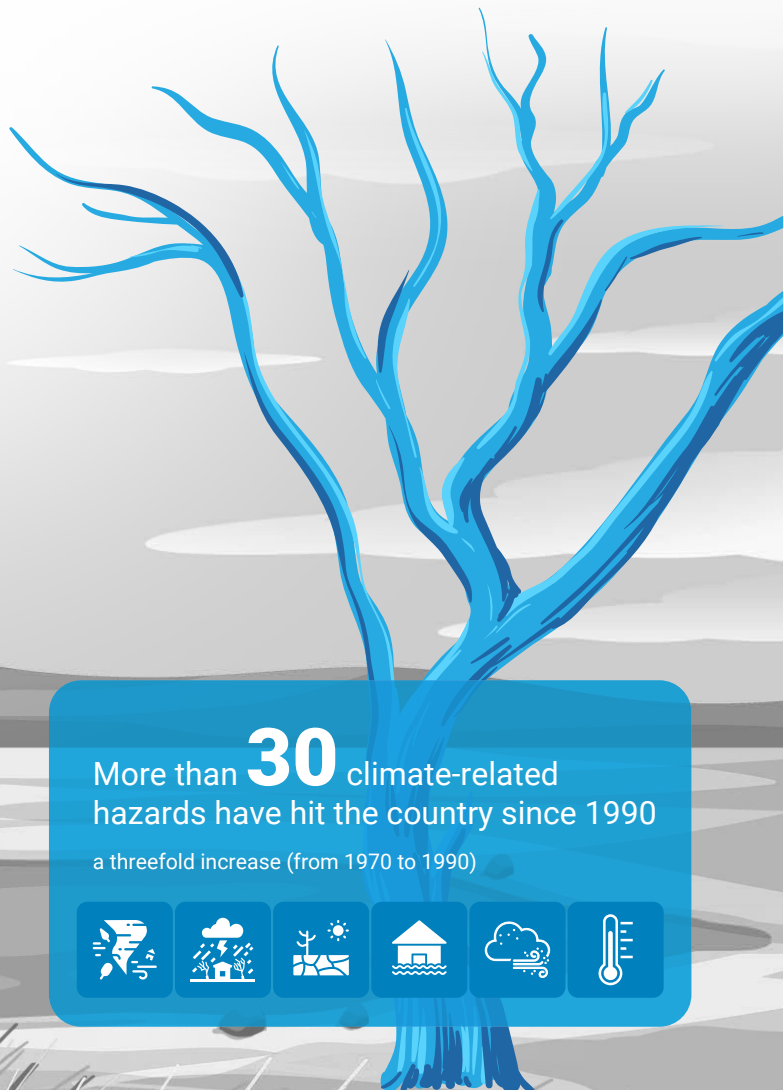
Mean temperatures in Somalia will rise by between 3-4 degrees Celsius by 2080\*

\*Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

## INTEGRATED APPROACH

As part of efforts to address the climate security issue, the UN in Somalia is focused on three priority areas: 1) peace and security, where we are looking at issues of environmental mediation, environmental policing and building capacity of the rule of law institutions around environmental protection; 2) nexus response to climate change impacts, where we are supporting communities to mitigate and respond to flooding and drought through nature-based solutions such as vegetative gabion walls and flood plain management; and 3) strengthening systems by supporting policy creation and providing legal assistance, as well as reducing the UN's own carbon footprint in Somalia.

The UN in Somalia continues to strengthen structures in Somalia by providing capacity and policy support to the Federal Government of Somalia with respect to national contributions, adaptation plans and national environmental policies. We are also partnering across the UN to deliver programmes around waste management, pollution control and biodiversity protection.



More than **30** climate-related hazards have hit the country since 1990

a threefold increase (from 1970 to 1990)

