



# WHEN RAIN TURNS TO DUST

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO THE COMBINED  
IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICTS AND THE CLIMATE  
AND ENVIRONMENT CRISIS ON PEOPLE'S LIVES



ICRC

**60% of the  
20 countries**

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most vulnerable  
and least ready to adapt  
to climate change are affected  
by an armed conflict.

ND-Gain Index

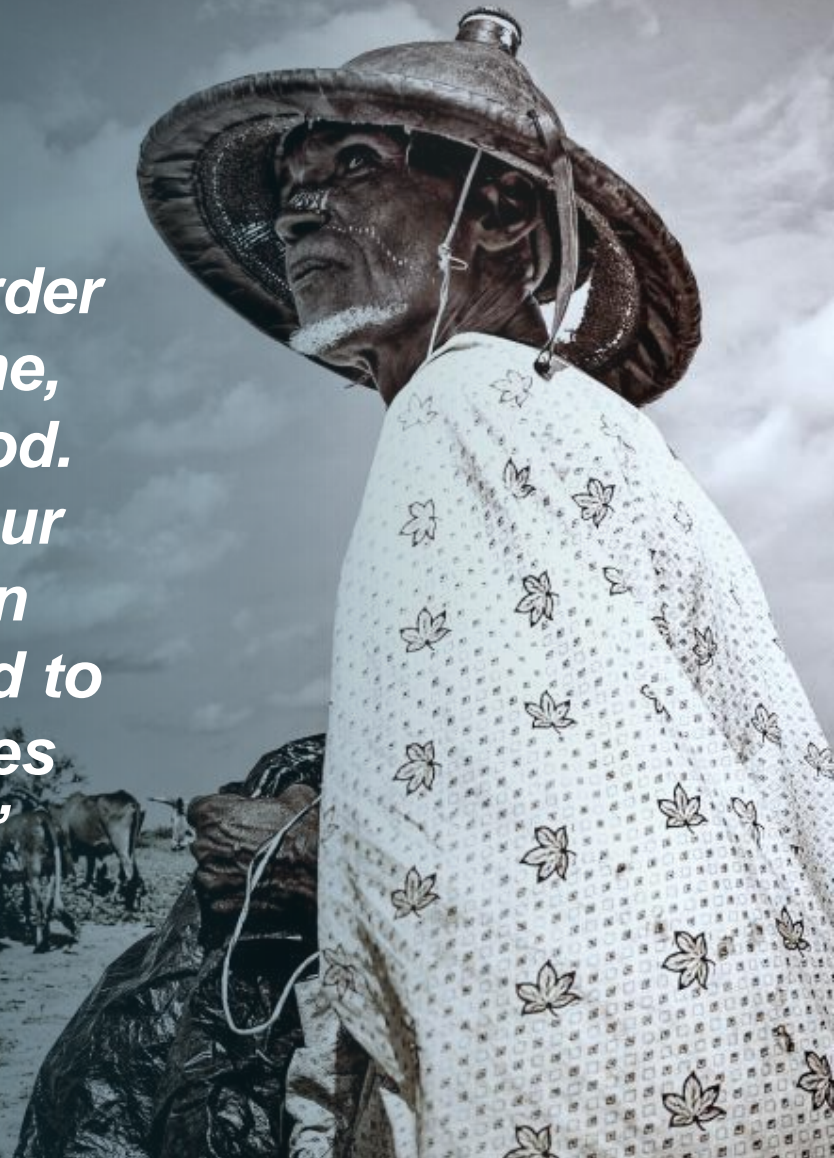
**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**



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***“Since 2012, insecurity is making the situation even harder than in the 1970s. At that time, we only had to search for food. We could move freely with our animals. Now, we can’t even search for food. We are forced to stay in place or move to cities because of the insecurity.”***

Community leader, northern Mali



**WHEN CONFLICT AND  
CLIMATE RISKS COLLIDE**



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***“The land is becoming desert... We lose animals and our land, and we become poor people... When I was a boy, when I walked this land, it was green, with a lot of water... When there was a lot of water, it was fine. Now, there are tensions.”***

***Akli, Southern Iraq***



**ADAPTING TO A CHANGING  
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT**



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***“Farmers can no longer farm and local herders (who still had some cattle) had to leave with their livestock. Many have lost everything and now live on the displacement site”***

***Herder from CAR who lost all his cattle to the crisis.***

## **ADAPTING HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES TO PEOPLE’S NEEDS**



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# OUR CALL



**SKILL UP** to respond adequately to the vulnerabilities and needs resulting from the intersection of conflict and climate risks.



**ANTICIPATE RISKS  
AND STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE**

by promoting respect for the environment during armed conflict and by designing programmes that help strengthening people's resilience.



**LEAD BY EXAMPLE** by limiting the damage we cause to the environment and the climate and by ensuring the resilience of our operations to extreme weather events.



**TEAM UP** across the RCRC Movement, the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate action during armed conflict and to ensure that people already suffering the consequences of war are not left out.



**MOBILIZE FOR IMPROVED CLIMATE  
ACTION AND FINANCE**

so that climate action reaches places in crisis and funding is more equitably balanced between mitigation and adaptation efforts.

# For more info:

- [ICRC webpage on climate & conflict](#)
- [Newsroom](#) (available for media use)
- [Animation](#) on climate & conflict
- [Natural environment: Neglected victim of armed conflict](#)
- Contact: Aurélie Lachant ([alachant@icrc.org](mailto:alachant@icrc.org) / @ALachantICRC)
- Follow-us: @ICRC / @CICR\_fr / @CICR\_Afrique / @ICRC\_Africa

Thank you!



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