



A 2025 Webinar Series on Climate Action in Afghanistan

Session 6: Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) - 9 December 2025

Five Key Takeaways

1. There is growing global recognition that climate change impacts extend beyond the environment to interact with economic, political, and social stressors in ways that accelerate risk, fuel instability, and heighten potential for conflict.
2. While understanding risks is important, it is equally necessary to look at opportunities for building climate resilience and cooperation concurrently.
3. Climate security risks are already unfolding, with pathways centered on changes in the water cycle and livelihood degradation.
4. Already occurring climate security risks in Afghanistan include tensions over local resources, migration, and transboundary water cooperation, while potential risks include the way livelihood degradation could fuel criminality (including organized crime), armed group recruitment, social unrest, and governance pressures.
5. Building climate resilience and cooperation in Afghanistan is feasible, with approaches like WFP's community-based asset creation, Geneva Water Hub's water for peace, and NEPA's recommendations for knowledge exchange and increasing local inclusion that could be scaled.

Opening Remarks

Alexandra (Sascha) Fong, Chief of Policy and Guidance, DPPA opened with the emergence of the CPS agenda and a growing recognition that the climate crisis extends beyond the environmental to interact with economic, political, and social stressors in ways that accelerate risks, fuel instability, and heighten potential for conflict. While progress on the CPS agenda has been non-linear, the Council has now recognised climate-security risks in 11 regional contexts. World leaders increasingly underscore CPS interactions, and a dedicated Group of Friends on Climate and Security has grown to over 80 Member States. She reflected the ongoing work of DPPA as part of the UN's Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) and its efforts to support analysis, conflict prevention, and conflict management.

"The peace dimension is increasingly being integrated into the climate architecture, signaling wider recognition that climate action and conflict prevention cannot be meaningfully separated." - Sascha Fong



Lightning Presentations: Key Insights

1. Florian Krampe, Director of Studies, Peace and Development, SIPRI noted the growth of the CPS agenda but cautioned against the global shift back to hard security at a time when climate shocks are becoming more frequent and severe. He outlined a pathways approach to understanding climate insecurity, emphasising the role of livelihoods and mobility, and the need to consider both temporal and geographical dimensions of impact. While concluding that climate security risks are very real, he stressed that cooperation is also common, and climate adaptation and peacebuilding are part of the same story.





“Every adaptation project can be a political opportunity for intervention and action to engage and bring people together in cooperation.” - Florian Krampe

2. **Charity Watson, Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, UNAMA** overviewed the findings of a joint UNAMA-DPPA study on CPS in Afghanistan. It found that water and livelihoods lie at the center of climate-security pathways, with three climate security risks already unfolding: local tensions over resources, tensions over climate-related mobility and displacement, and complications on transboundary water cooperation. Additional potential areas of risk identified the impact of livelihood degradation on criminality (including organized crime and narcotics production), recruitment into armed groups, social unrest, and governance pressures.



“This was a starting point to identify the preliminary pathways of risk to feed into that peacebuilding and programming initiatives.” - Charity Watson

Panel Discussion: Key Messages

1. **Arif Momand, Associate Political Affairs Officer, UNAMA** summarized field level observations on CPS in the Eastern Region of Afghanistan, where environment is reshaping stability, cohesion and daily life. He gave examples of water scarcity fueling intercommunal conflicts, traditional resolution mechanisms that no longer can address the changing context; deforestation due to livelihood strain exacerbating vulnerabilities; and climate induced displacement reshaping community relations. While challenges exist, he stressed that solutions must also begin at the community level, and communities themselves are working to adapt.



“Across all provinces’ climate shocks are increasing in severity, competition is growing over water and land, and traditional mechanisms struggle to bring answers.” - Arif Mohmand

2. **Anusara Singhkumarwong, Head of Resilience, Food Systems and Climate Action, WFP** discussed WFPs approach to resilience that integrates community-level peacebuilding, starting with community participatory planning and listening to communities and their priorities. Through building community level climate-resilience infrastructure, WFP’s approach brings the people together to find solutions which creates opportunities to ensure a commitment to working together and an opportunity to resolve conflicts, including across tribal lines, with consistently positive results.



“Our primary objective is food and nutrition security but we see that social cohesion is one of the primary outcomes and a central part of the process as well.” - Anusara Singhkumarwong

3. **Ruhollah Beigi from the Flood, Drought Forecasting and Climate Change on Water Resources, de facto Ministry of Energy and Water** discussed the transboundary implications of climate change in Afghanistan’s river basins, noting significant hydro-meteorological impacts. He stated that climate change is increasing temperatures, decreasing rainfall, snowfall, snow cover and snow water equivalent, and changing precipitation types and patterns impacting the entire basin. Mr. Beigi highlighted the





reduction of snow and glaciers and its effect on streamflow and intensifying flood and drought conditions. He emphasized the need to improve watershed management within the IWRM system, expand hydro-meteorological monitoring networks, construct water storage and flood control dams, enhance hydrological modelling capacities, and strengthen capacity building in order to conserve water and reduce future challenges.

“They are aware of climate change and its global impacts, yet they continue requesting water from us, even though we are experiencing decreasing rainfall and snowfall along with severe and prolonged drought conditions.” - Rohullah Beigi

4. **Rohullah Amin, Climate Change Director, *de facto* National Environmental Protection Agency** discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation around climate change at both the regional and local levels. At a regional scale, he suggested shared water management, regional early warning systems and data sharing, joint programming, policy coordination, and knowledge exchange. At a local level, he highlighted building local educational and awareness programs, increasing local participation and inclusion, and fostering knowledge exchange on local innovation. He closed by suggesting entry points for engagement with Afghanistan on CPS, including a technical CPS assessment, capacity building workshops, and revised framing to avoid sensitivities.

“Climate change presents not only challenges but opportunities to strengthen regional and community levels.” - Rohullah Amin



5. **Basilio Ghisletta, Policy and Law Programme Manager, Geneva Water Hub** discussed global experience on water for peace and opportunities for its consideration in Afghanistan. He noted that water can be helpful at different stages of a conflict - whether as prevention, during conflict or post-conflict - giving examples from West Africa, Europe and the Balkans. On tools that could be useful for Afghanistan, he noted Geneva Water Hub’s work in other contexts including capacity building, safe space dialogues, and hydropolitical baseline assessments that build common understanding of a basin from biophysical, social, political, and legal perspectives.

“On mediation, water has this capacity to open up the negotiation space, as it is so broad, for example you can bring in energy or other sectors.” - Basilio Ghisletta



This summary overviews the shared insights from a **webinar convened by Samuel Hall and UNAMA as part of the 2025 Climate Action in Afghanistan Series**. It brings together humanitarian, development, and technical perspectives to clarify what earlier, more coordinated, and more community-driven climate action must look like in practice. The session brought together:

The [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan](#) (UNAMA) is a UN Special Political Mission supporting the Afghan people. Its vision is a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan where everyone’s rights are respected without discrimination.

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