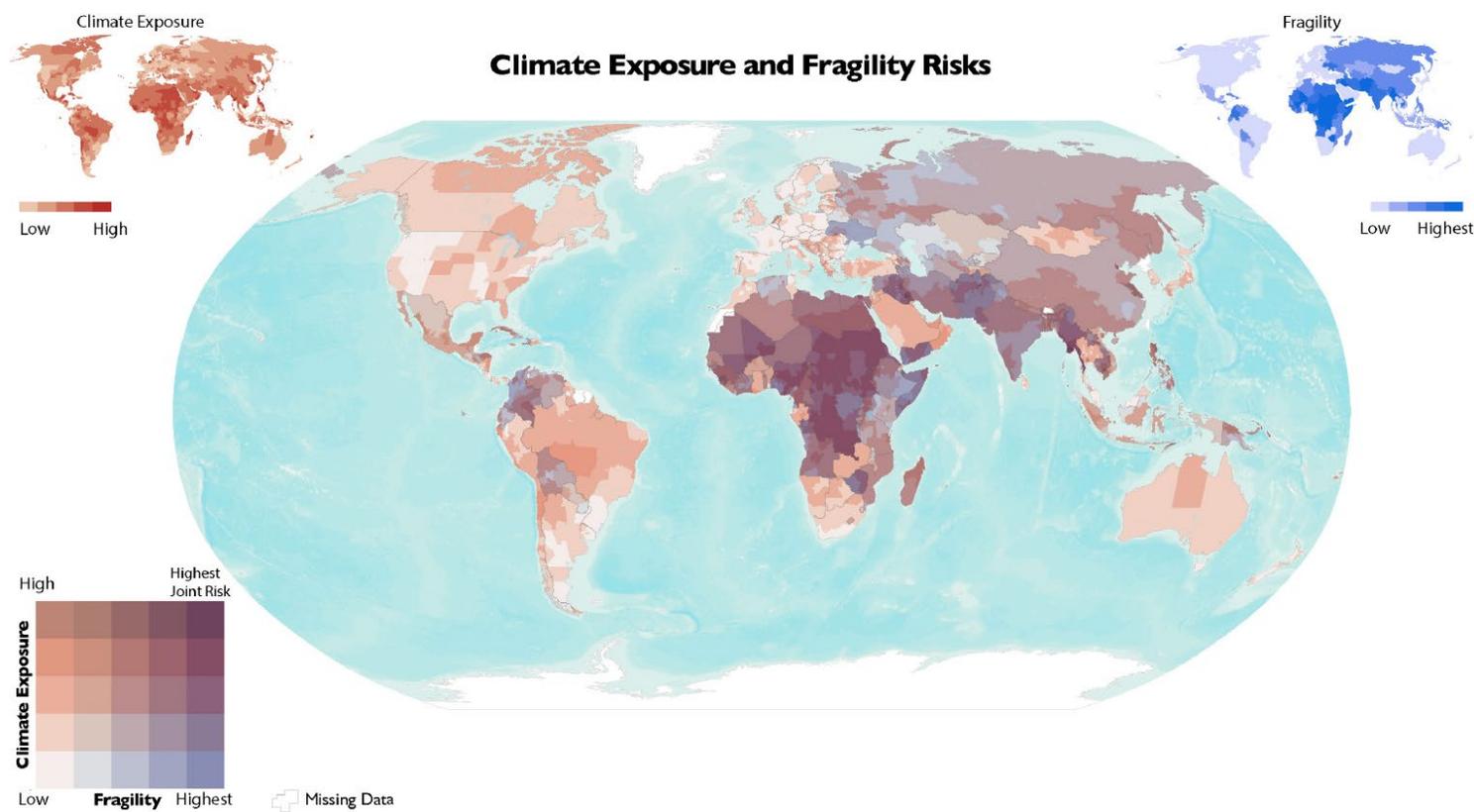


# The Nexus between Climate Change and Conflict: What Relevance for Civilian CSDP Missions?



This factsheet outlines ways in which climate change can impact conflict dynamics, and highlights the relevance of this link – or nexus – for civilian CSDP missions. The impact of climate change on conflict is particularly influential in already fragile settings, as the most unstable countries\* are also often those that are disproportionately affected by climate change, as seen in the below map.

\* Instability / fragility: level of state effectiveness and legitimacy in the political, security, economic, and social spheres

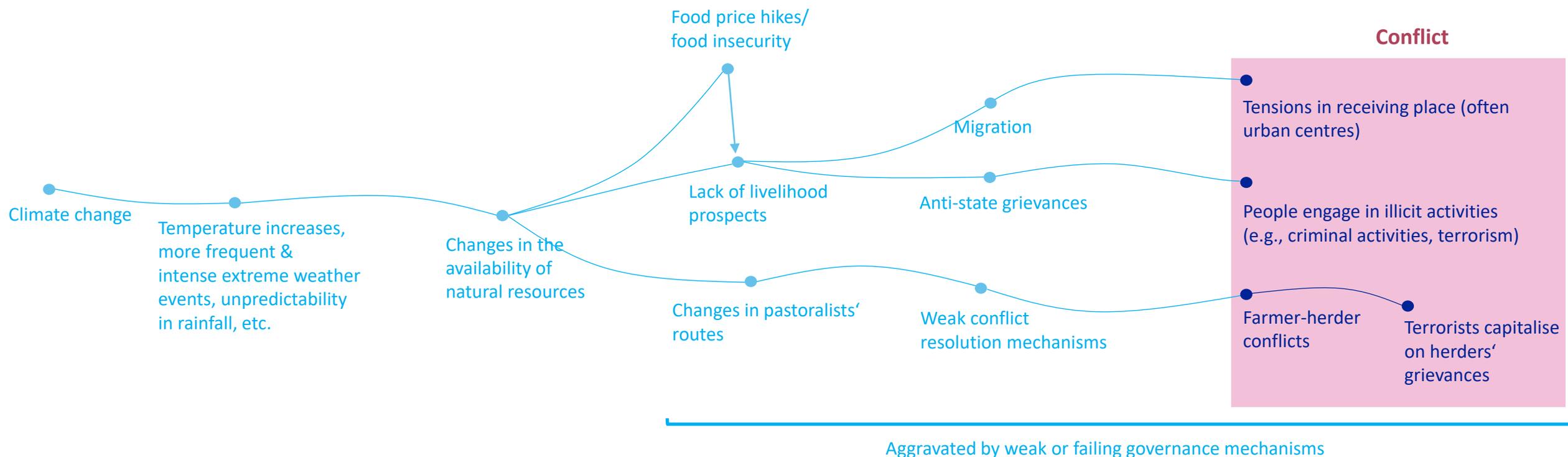


# How does Climate Impact Conflict?

- The consequences of climate change, such as rising temperatures and sea levels, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and unpredictability in rainfall, **increase the impact of factors driving conflict**. Hence, climate change is often referred to as a **risk multiplier**. The fact that the link between climate change and conflict is indirect does not reduce its importance.
- The pathways through which climate change exacerbates conflict are complex and **highly dependent on context**. The diagram on the next page depicts some of the main ways in which this interaction can occur.

*“Without appropriate action, climate change will mean more fragility, less peace and less security.” (adelphi & PIK, 2020)*

# Potential Climate-Conflict Pathways



## Links to Selected Case Studies

[Pastoralist and Farmer-Herder Conflicts in the Sahel](#) | [Climate change and violent extremism in the Western Sahel](#) | [Droughts, Livestock Prices and Armed Conflict in Somalia](#) |

[Israel-Palestine: Water Sharing Conflict](#) | [Poor water provision drives Taliban recruitment in Afghanistan](#)

# What Relevance for Civilian CSDP?

- Climate change can exacerbate problems that civilian CSDP missions seek to tackle. If the activities conducted – or encouraged – by missions are not climate-sensitive, missions could worsen the very problems – such as terrorism, organised crime, and conflict – they help address.
- Missions can play a unique role in addressing the climate-conflict nexus, including by identifying climate-conflict risks in the host country context and potential implications for mandate fulfillment; raising awareness of the nexus in-mission and in relevant host country structures; advocating for climate-sensitive policies, including on counter-terrorism; and enhancing cooperation with relevant actors in the field, to foster an integrated approach to the climate-conflict nexus.
- More widely, the topic is relevant for efforts to reduce missions' environmental footprint, which have just begun, following the adoption of the 2020 “Climate Change and Defence Roadmap”.

*“Conflict prevention and peacebuilding need to become climate-sensitive.” (adelphi & PIK, 2020)*

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