

# Event Summary

## Fragility Forum 2022

### Climate Security Priorities for Peacebuilding in Mali

15 March 2022, 14:30 – 15:30 CET/ 13:30 – 14:30 GMT

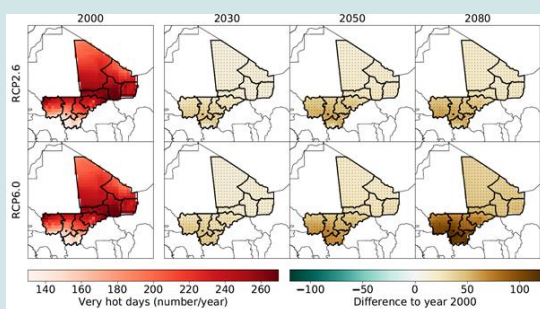
At the 2022 World Bank Fragility Forum, adelphi and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised an interactive discussion on climate security priorities for peacebuilding in Mali. Drawing heavily from an upcoming Weathering Risk Mali case study, [Oli Brown](#) (Chatham House) moderated a panel discussion that included four speakers: [Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe](#), Danish Ambassador to Mali; [Lukas Rüttinger](#), Senior Advisor, Diplomacy & Security Programme at adelphi; [Lisa Binder](#), Research Analyst at PIK and [Sophie Ravier](#), Senior Special Assistant to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political) of MINUSMA and the mission's Climate Security Focal Point.

*“We need more local analysis of how climate and conflicts interact and how this relates to inequalities and gender.”*

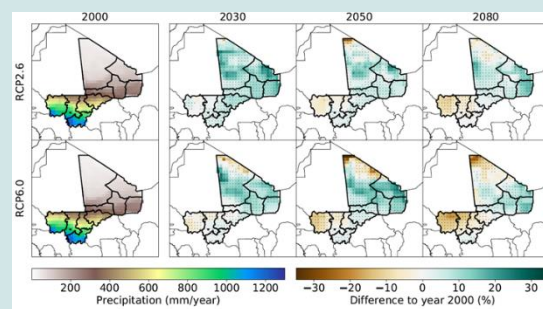
**Lisa Binder, PIK**

The discussion was kicked-off by Ambassador Rolf Michael Hay Pereira Holmboe, who reiterated the need to overcome challenges to long-term thinking given the intensity of short-term crises. Indeed, medium- to long-term holistic approaches that take climate and conflict into account, while prioritising bottom-up and perhaps smaller, less militarized, interventions to solidify community and national level political buy in, should be the focus.

Reinforcing sentiments conveyed by the ambassador, Lisa Binder presented climate change impact projections from the upcoming Weathering Risk Mali case study and discussed the challenges they may pose. In short, extreme weather events, such as increased numbers of hot days, increased annual rainfall, droughts and flooding, will become more frequent in the country in coming decades (see graphs below), further aggravating issues Mali has already struggled with in recent years.



Geographically explicit projections of the annual number of very hot days (daily maximum temperature above 35 °C) for Mali for different GHG emissions scenarios ([Tomalka et. al., 2020](#)).



Geographically explicit annual mean precipitation projections for Mali for different GHG emissions scenarios (Gleixner, S. based on: [Tomalka et. al., 2020](#)).

These impacts include a likely increase in displacement and exacerbated food insecurity given that sorghum and millet production could decrease 20% by 2080. Lukas Rüttinger of adelphi stressed that several security and development risks stem from climate change, including competition over natural resources. These can contribute to conflicts between farmers, pastoralists and fishers, as well as within these groups. He stressed that climate mitigation and adaptation strategies need to be conflict sensitive. Reinforcing social cohesion is key, not only between and within livelihood groups, but also between the state and the people, and between generations and genders.

*“Focus on those factors that translate climate into conflict risk, especially governance.”*  
**Lukas Rüttinger, adelphi**

*“We need to take the complexity of challenges into account - we can't focus just on climate solutions or conflict solutions, there is a need to look at holistic solutions.”*

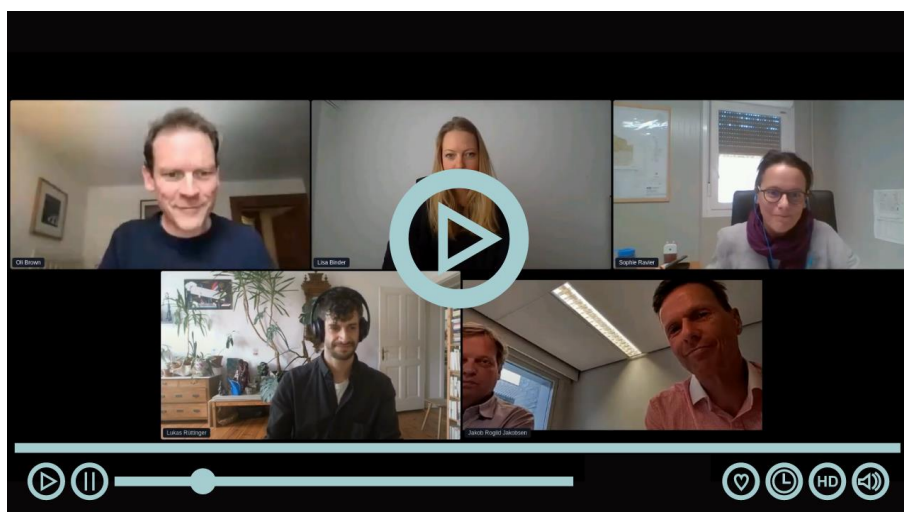
**Ambassador Holmboe,  
Danish MFA**

Taking the previous interventions into account, moderator Oli Brown pressed Sophie Ravier of MINUSMA to reflect on how the findings presented would impact the Mission's work. Although climate security is not formally a part of all UN mandates, Sophie stressed that peacebuilding missions also need to address climate security challenges.

However, peacebuilding missions may not yet have the right tools and knowledge in order to tackle climate security challenges. MINUSMA may in the future hire a full-time climate security advisor who would fulfil a function similar to the one laid out in a recent Weathering Risk [advisory note](#). Peacebuilding missions cannot work alone to address these challenges, meaning partnerships and communities of expertise on climate and security will be crucial.

*“We need partnerships with the expertise to integrate into conflict analysis; we need to talk about climate and environmental security together.”*  
**Sophie Ravier, MINUSMA**

## Watch the event online:



## Key takeaways

- Stakeholders need to implement long-term, holistic approaches to Mali's climate and conflict challenges, and bottom-up, small scale initiatives can help overcome lack of political will.
- Climate change in Mali is about more than desertification and resource scarcity, but additionally, rainfall variability and increasing heat.
- Reduced livelihoods and subsequent financial precarity are key challenges posed by climate change.
- It is important to recognise that those affected are not just the often-considered farmers and herders but include a broader swath of the population, including women and youth, which amplifies poverty and existing inequalities.
- Governance malpractice and increased militarisation are exacerbating climate security risks by complicating viable adaptation and mitigation opportunities.
- There is a need to rebuild social cohesion between people and state, between and within communities, and between generations and genders.
- International actors, like MINUSMA, could better address climate security issues through partnerships and deeper engagement with actors that possess climate security expertise.

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