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Climate Threats, Fragility, and Conflict Risks

**Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation
Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance**



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Global Conflict

- 25** Countries with **active** armed conflict
- 13** Countries where conflicts ended 1 to 5 years ago
- 12** Countries where conflicts ended 6 to 10 years ago
- 50** Conflict-affected countries



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Conflict and Fragility

50 Conflict-affected countries

24 experience high levels of fragility

15 additional countries have fragility levels above the global average

39 Conflict-affected countries (78%) have above-average fragility levels



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How do the set of countries that are most threatened for heightened climate risks relate to the set of fragile or conflict-affected states?



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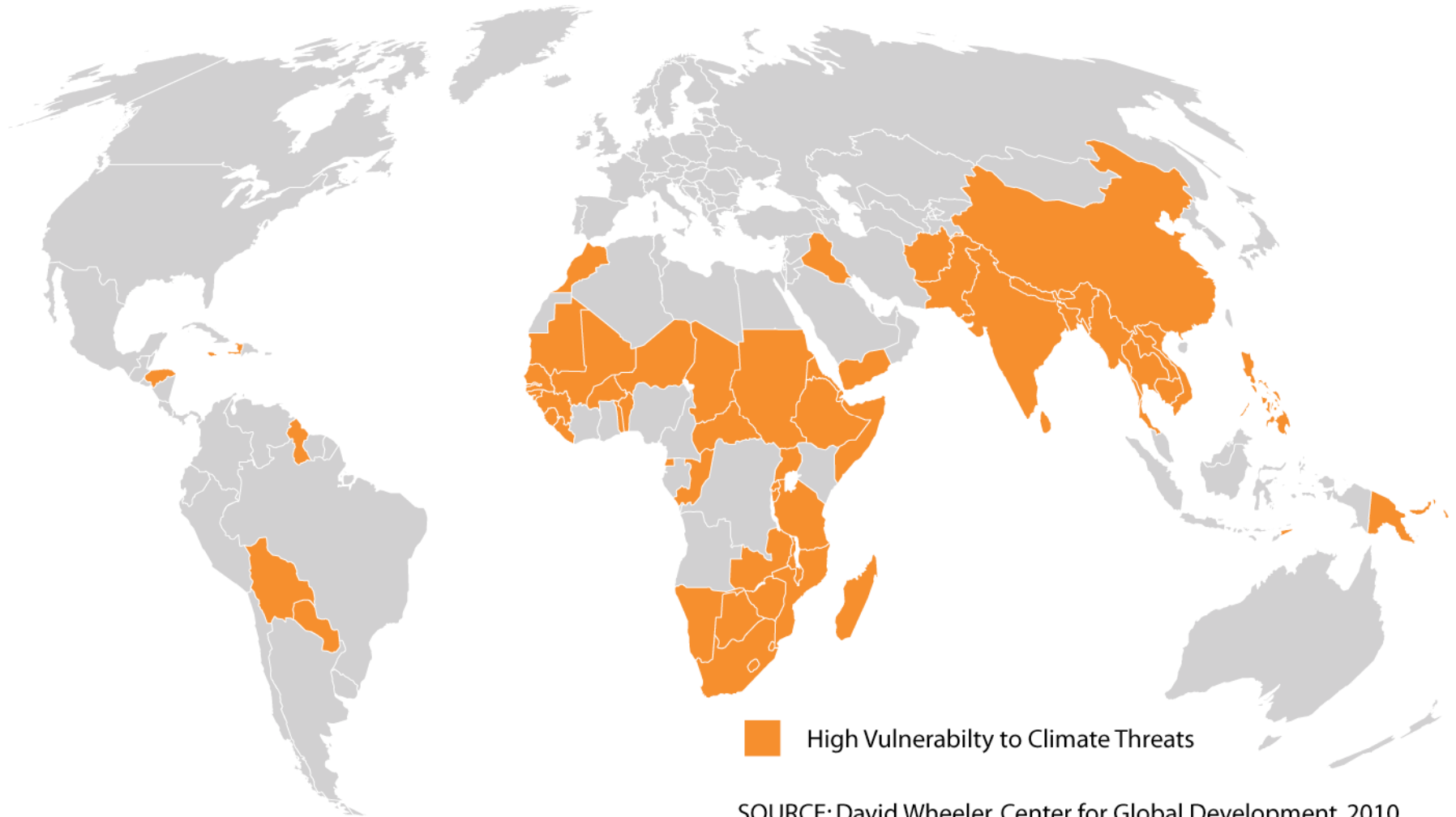
Climate Threats Methodology

- **USAID 2011 Alert List – Overlay of fragility and future climate vulnerability**
- **Climate vulnerability estimate**
 - Adapted from David Wheeler, Center for Global Development
 - Examines global weather data and projects them forward using econometric modeling techniques
 - Uses the model to obtain individual risk scores for all countries globally
 - Exclusive focus on the physical vulnerability to climate hazards without weighting for societal capacity to cope and adapt



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Vulnerability to Climate Threats

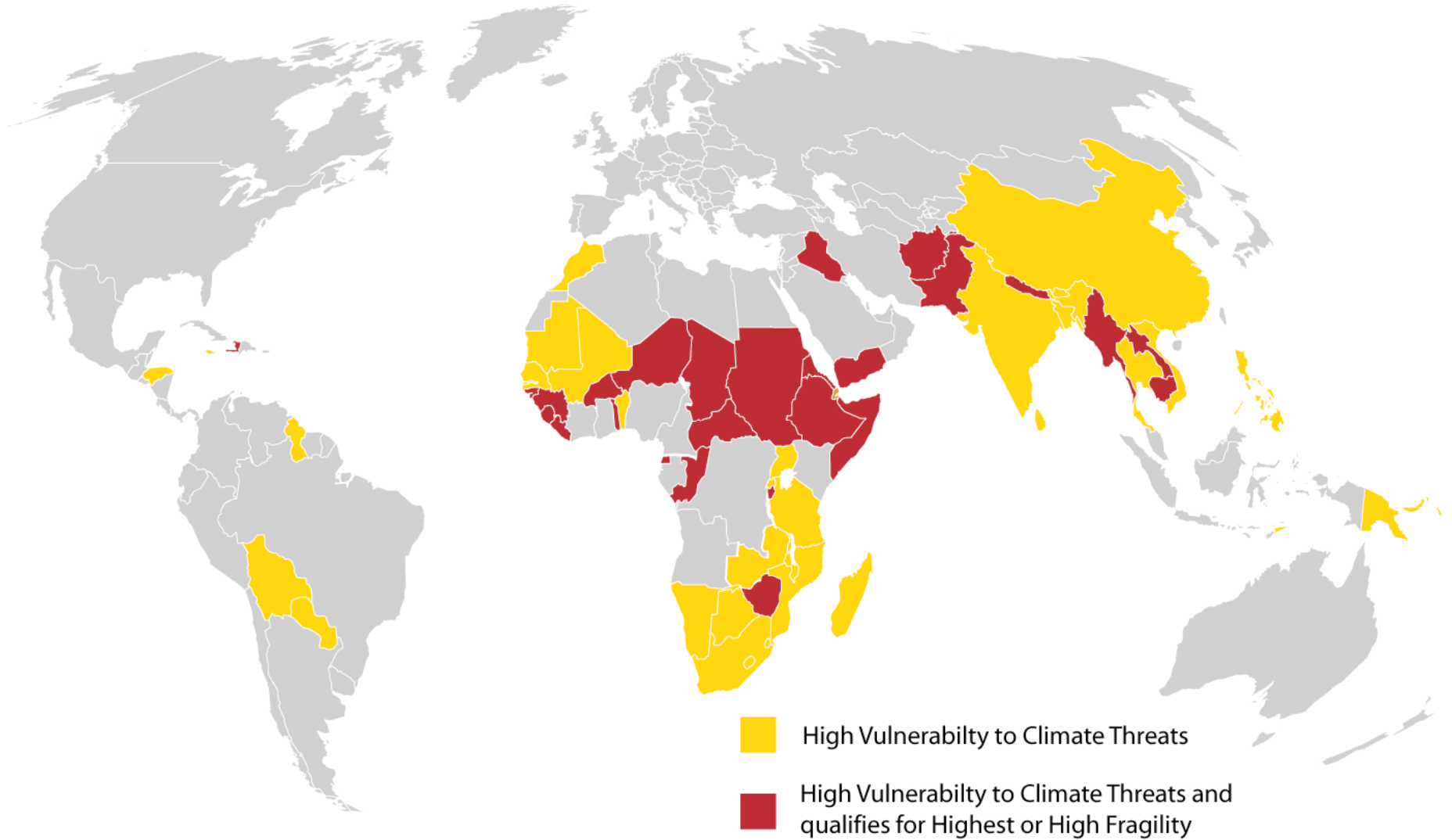


SOURCE: David Wheeler, Center for Global Development, 2010



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Climate Vulnerability and Fragility





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Climate Vulnerability and Fragility

**High
Fragility**

**High Climate
Vulnerability**



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Climate Vulnerability and Fragility

**High Climate
Vulnerability**

**High
Fragility**

Conflict Mitigating Factors

- Legitimate governing institutions
- Resilient economic and social institutions (high levels of social capital or cohesion)
- Higher levels of human security



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Climate Change as Cause for Conflict: Implications

- **Countries with high fragility**
 - The risks of conflict are already very high due to many other factors
 - The consequences of climate change join those factors
- **Countries with low fragility**
 - Existing macro-level attributes of state and society suggest potential for mitigating any conflict risks that climate threats may cause
- **Programming Implications**
 - In fragile and non-fragile states, programming to address climate threats should be sensitive to its impact on pre-existing conditions (existing mitigators or vulnerabilities) that relate to violent conflict



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Concluding Comments

- **A change in the ‘framing discussion’ about climate and conflict**
- **Sub-national dynamics are critical**
- **Understanding the micro-level story**



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Supplemental Slides



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Fragility Indicators

	Effectiveness	Legitimacy
Political	1. Quality of public service/government effectiveness 2. Number of coups d'etat in last five years 3. Government revenues, as percentage of GDP	4. Nature of political participation (absence or presence of factionalism) 5. % of population experiencing political discrimination 6. Extent of citizen participation in selecting government 7. Asylum requests, as % of population
Security	8. Intensity of most severe ongoing armed conflict 9. Size of displaced population 10. Proportion of area affected by ethnic or revolutionary war	11. State use of political terror 12. Extent of state repression of citizens 13. Presence/change in support for militant groups
Economic	14. Three-year change in real GDP (PPP) per capita 15. Change in foreign investment 16. Poverty rate - % of population living on less than \$2 per day (PPP) 17. Primary commodity exports/total exports 18. Three-year inflation rate	19. % of population experiencing economic discrimination 20. Corruption 21. Extent of rule of law/protection of property rights 22. Number of days to start a business
Social	23. Infant mortality rate 24. Youth literacy rate 25. Change in % of population living with HIV/AIDS 26. DPT and measles immunization rates 27. % of population with access to improved water supplies/sanitation	28. Male/female literacy ratio 29. Male/female life expectancy ratio 30. % of GDP spent on military 31. Deviance from GDP-predicted infant mortality 32. Deviance from GDP-predicted primary school completion rate 33. Cultural and religious freedoms

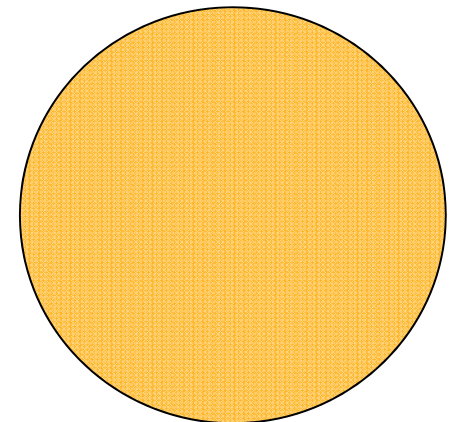


Climate Vulnerability and Instability

Fragility Category	Highly Vulnerable to Climate Threats?		Total
	Yes	No	
High or Highest Overall Fragility	27 (82%)	6 (18%)	33 100%
High or Highest Effectiveness Fragility	38 (88%)	5 (12%)	43 100%
High or Highest Legitimacy Fragility	21 (58%)	15 (42%)	36 100%

NOTE: The top number in each cell refers to the number of countries in each category. The bottom number is the percentage of the total number of countries in each fragility category

- **Most states that are highly fragile or at high risk for instability are also vulnerable to climate related threats.**
- **The converse, however, is not true**
- **These findings remain preliminary. Research is ongoing.**



**High Climate
Vulnerability**