Global Trends in the Next Decade: Implications for U.S. National Security, Diplomacy and Development

Climate Change, Human Rights and Security: Complex Drivers and the Need for New Approaches

Alice Thomas, Refugees International

The Wilson Center
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Climate Change & Human Rights

Rights undermined:

- Right to life
- Right to adequate food
- Right to water
- Right to health
- Right to adequate housing
- Right to self-determination

Photo credit: Refugees International
Climate Change & Human Rights

Disproportionate impacts on:

- Women and children
- Indigenous peoples
- Inhabitants of low-lying islands and coastal areas
The Challenge

Image credit: IPCC Fifth Assessment Report
Illustrations

A. Climate Change & Fragile/Conflict-Ridden States

B. Climate Change & Displacement

Photo credit: Refugees International
Climate Change & Fragile and Conflict-Ridden States

2011 Drought and Famine in Somalia
Climate Change & Displacement

2013 Typhoon Haiyan, the Philippines
Recommendations:

- Address climate risk in fragile and conflict-ridden states
- Channel adaptation funding to promote human rights
- Pooled funding as a strategy for breaking down silos
Thank you!