

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

June 4, 2015

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**



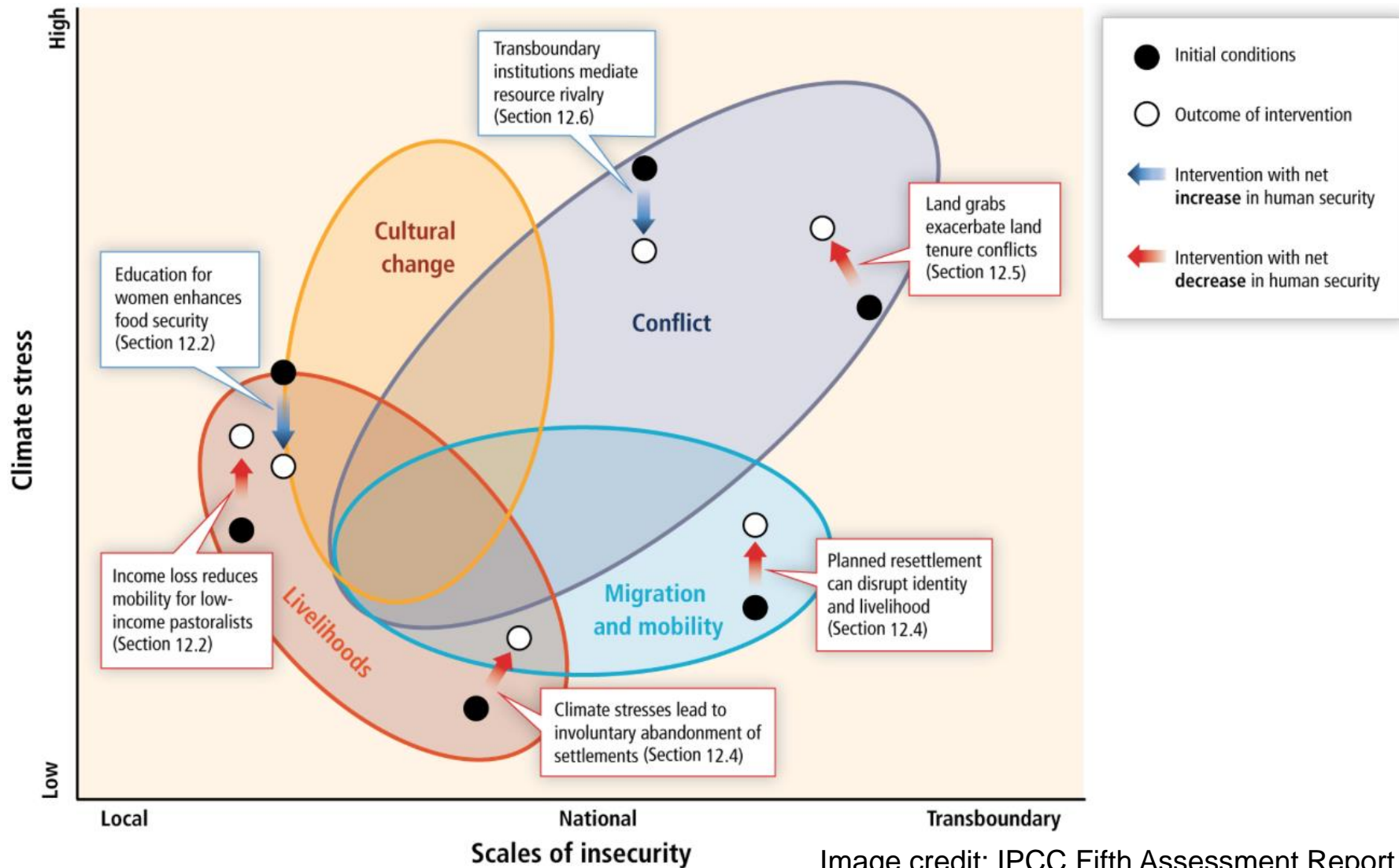
Climate Change & Human Rights

Disproportionate impacts on:

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

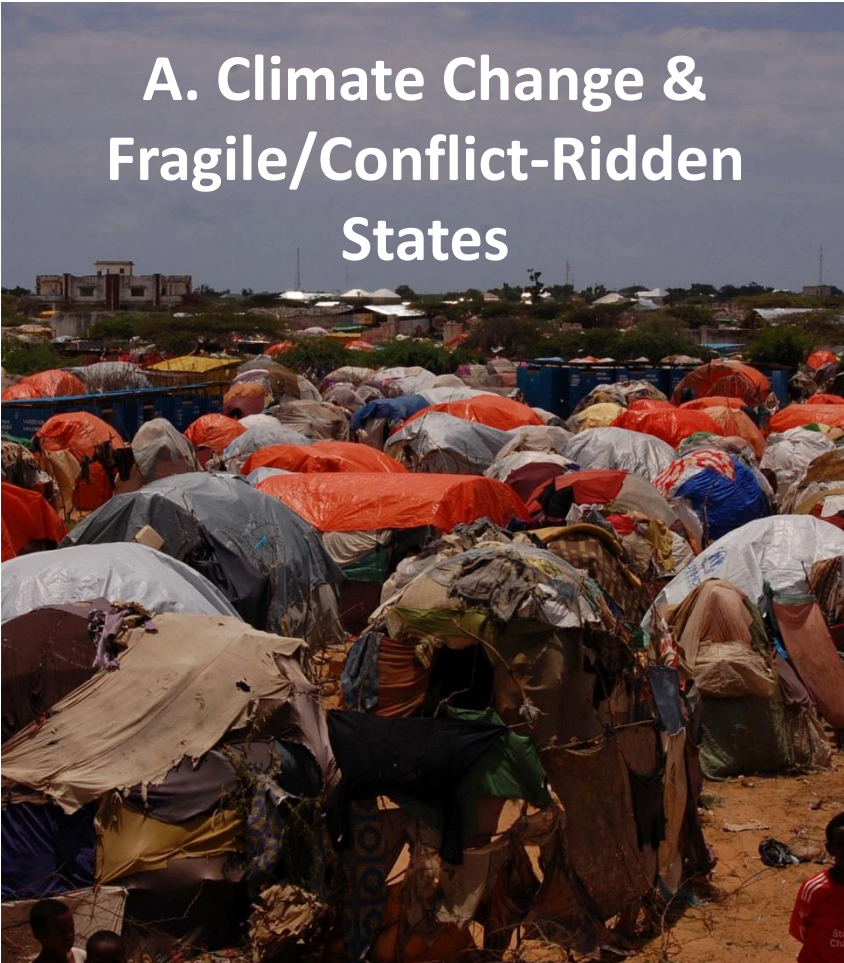


The Challenge



Illustrations

A. Climate Change & Fragile/Conflict-Ridden States



B. Climate Change & Displacement



Photo credit: Refugees International

A photograph showing a woman in a red headscarf carrying two young children on her back. They are standing next to a makeshift shelter made of brown, torn fabric and sticks. The background is a dry, open landscape under a blue sky. The text 'Climate Change & Fragile and Conflict-Ridden States' is overlaid in white, bold font.

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!

