Catastrophes, Confrontations, and Constraints

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Conflict Dynamics

- No change (18)
- Escalation (9)
- De-escalation (9)

Bar charts showing:
- Grievances
- Opportunity
- Costly signal
- Solidarity
- Constraints
- Image cultivation
Sri Lanka, 2004 tsunami

India, 2005 earthquake
Society is vulnerable
At least one conflict party affected

Disaster benefits one conflict party
(Rebels react to grievances)

One conflict party weakened by disaster, other unable to exploit

no impact on conflict dynamics (18 cases)

escalation (9 cases)

disaster
armed conflict

impact on conflict dynamics (18 cases)

de-escalation (9 cases)
Key take away points:

• Disasters increase armed conflict intensity

• Disaster-conflict links are non-deterministic and multi-directional

• Opportunities as key drivers

• Windows of opportunity and risk
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Thank you

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