

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICTS

CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD

We need more multidisciplinary research on the relationship between climate change and conflict. However, in light of current knowledge, we can say that climate change may increase the risk of conflict in situations where there are other predisposing factors. Climate change can also accelerate and complicate an existing conflict, making it more difficult to resolve. Climate change affects conflicts variously in different regions and in different communities.

WHAT THE EXERCISE IS ABOUT

- Duration: 30-45 minutes, depending on the type of presentations made by the small groups.
- Equipment required: Computer and internet connection for video streaming and online research.
- Investigate a conflict in a particular region and its relation to climate change. Distribute the information searched by the small groups among the group and compare results.

THE GOAL OF THE EXERCISE

In this training session, small groups search information on one area, the conflict there, and the impacts of climate change on the area. Dividing the exercise among small groups will provide a more varied picture of what the relationship between climate change and conflict may be.

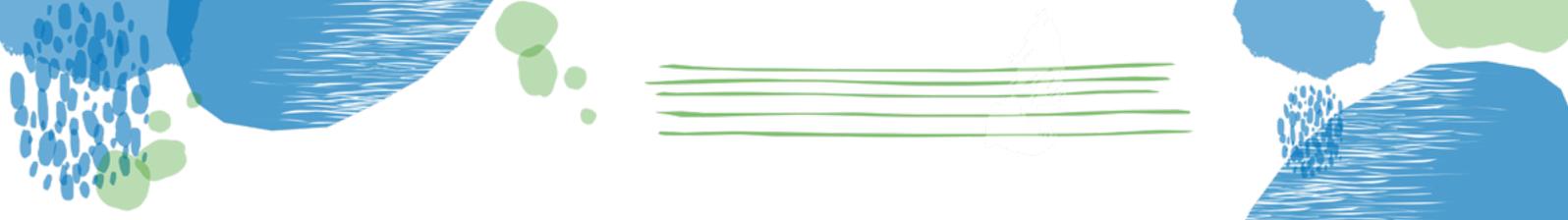
HOW THE EXERCISE SHOULD PROCEED

Topics to study:

- Somalia
- Yemen
- Lake Chad region
- Syria and Iraq

Divide students into four groups, assign a topic to each group, and then give them the following instructions:

Explore your topic using the Internet and find out how climate change is related to the conflict in that area. Give a presentation on the topic to another group, and answer the following questions:

- 
- What factors have contributed to the emergence of the conflict?
 - What has been the impact of climate change on the region and its inhabitants? How has it affected the conflict?
 - Try to find out how climate change has been taken into account in conflict resolution and peace mediation in the region.
 - What kind of climate activism and what kind of climate action has possibly been carried out at local level?
 - Check out the country's per capita carbon footprint - what is the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions per inhabitant?

Further details on the instructions:

- Depending on the time available, you can choose whether to ask students to simply write down the information in note form for oral presentation, or whether groups should make e.g. short slideshows.
- The first three questions are the most essential. If the pace of the groups varies greatly, guidelines can be applied to the questions.
- If you feel it necessary, you can provide more detailed instructions on group searches for information: Enter words on the search engine such as: *name of region* conflict climate change. Check the list of search results together, and then decide which entry each group will look at to avoid duplicating the work. Finally, put together the answers to the questions you have been given.

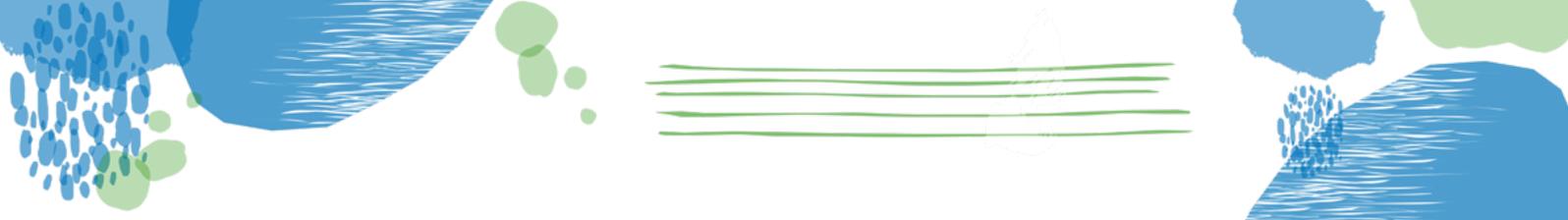
Finally, the groups present their reports to one other. Let's discuss:

- The relationship between climate change and conflicts: what were the common elements and the differences in the groups' findings?
- What sorts of additional questions came up as you were finding out about the subject?

Tip: As a framework for this task, you can do the **Mythbusters** exercise in this package by dividing it into two parts: first discuss all or selected statements briefly at the beginning of the class, and return to check the "right" answers after you have done the group work and have discussed them. (Total time approx. 15 min)

Tip for unbundling: An additional activity, for example for quick students, could be this information search task:

- What researched information can you find on the web concerning climate change and conflict? For example, scientific articles or news articles reporting on scientific research on the subject.
- What is the notion of the relationship between climate change and conflict? Does the result of your own work support this?



LINKS AND FURTHER READING:

Climate change and conflicts – Three things you need to know (CMI, 16.9.2018) <http://cmi.fi/2019/09/16/climate-change-and-conflicts-three-things-you-need-to-know/>

Climate change could exacerbate conflicts - future wars could be over water (CMI, 10.12.2018) <http://cmi.fi/2018/12/10/climate-change-threatens-to-exacerbate-conflicts-future-wars-could-be-over-water/>

Interview with Al Gore (CMI, 09.11.2018) <http://cmi.fi/2018/11/09/al-gore-conflict-resolution-organizations-like-cmi-can-play-profound-role-solving-climate-crisis/>