

**IOM Sudan**

# The Climate, Security and Food Systems Nexus theme

*CGIAR Meeting*



Nov 2022

# PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

- Over 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 1.2 million refugees, 900,000 returnees, and 9.3 million vulnerable people that rely on humanitarian assistance.
- Protracted and new displacements continue to occur due to conflict and recurring disasters (floods and droughts).
- Intensification of desertification, land degradation and erosion, cyclical drought, and flooding – which in turn contributes to the deteriorating socio-economic situation and decreased resilience of communities.
- Beyond Sudan's extreme vulnerability to natural hazards, human actions are contributing factors to environmental degradation increasing the risk of disasters but also making communities more vulnerable the impact of climate variability and natural hazards
- In fragile and conflict-affected settings, like Sudan, climatic hazards act as a threat multiplier, with the severity and frequency of climate-related disasters impeding capacities of communities to adapt to shocks and manage disaster risk.
- Understanding and addressing the link between climate change and security in fragile contexts is essential for the development and implementation of comprehensive interventions that seek to contribute to building resilience and address the root causes of insecurity

# PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

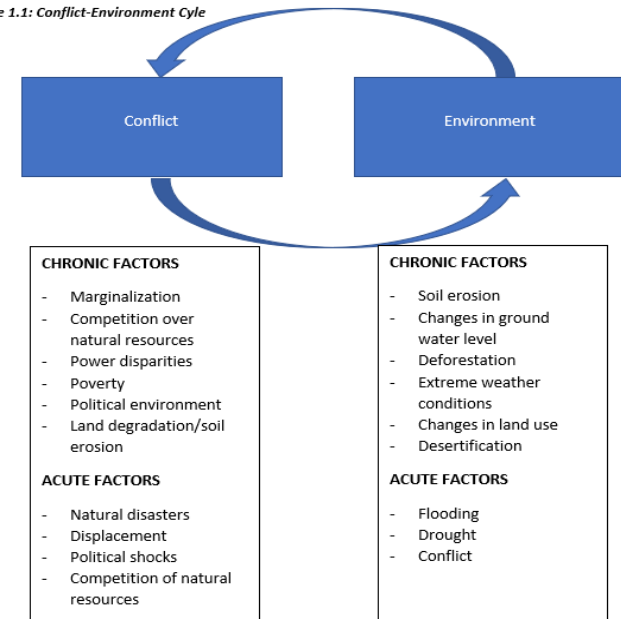
## 1. Climate – Security – Fragility Nexus

- Analysis of the interplay between conflict and climatic factors, including disasters
- Analysis of local resources, uses and systems in place
- Integration of natural resource management solutions in conflict resolution mechanism
- Design programming to counter negative practices

## 2. Disaster Risk Reduction

- Preparedness
- Vulnerability Capacity Assessments
- Implementation of adaptation plan

Picture 1.1: Conflict-Environment Cycle



# CLIMATE – SECURITY – FRAGILITY NEXUS

## GENERAL FINDINGS

**Project Title:** “Mitigating the potential for tension and conflict in areas impacted by the refugee influx in Sudan” funded by EU

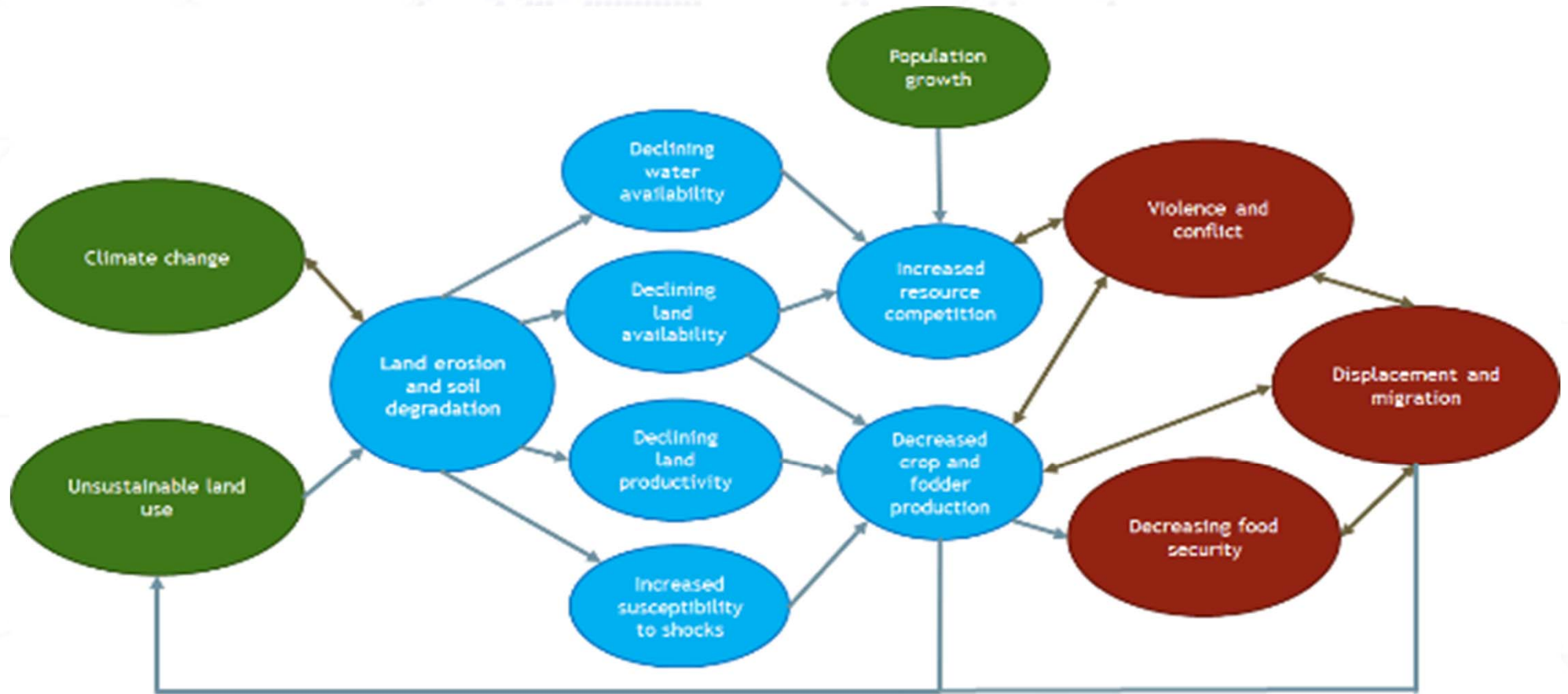
**Location:** Gedaref State

**State Profile:** site of environmental degradation, migration, and conflict - expected the heighten with increasing climate change issues. The area has further seen an influx of refugees from Tigray since 2020 and narratives around intensified environmental degradation (namely deforestation) are causing additional tensions between the refugees and the host communities.

Conducted an environmental and market analysis combining remote sensing techniques with a field visit to gather evidence around land use, environmental degradation, livelihoods, and deforestation and to provide a better basis for evidence-based decision-making and programming. Exploring land use patterns indicates the degree to which current practices in agropastoral livelihoods and forestry are sustainable, to what degree the ecosystem’s sustainability is currently threatened, and in which direction key indicators are moving.

# GENERAL FINDINGS

- Intense land degradation due to climatic factors and manmade ones leading to lowering yields affects the food security
- Horizontal expansion of agricultural land is highly limited – contributing to further land degradation (horizontal expansion has been the “solution” rather than vertical improvement of productivity)
- Narrowing pastoralist corridors and remaining pastures are likely to suffer from erosion reducing productive capacity
- Continued and intensifying patterns of deforestation
- Patterns in land use and resulting degradation can be observed in the functionality of local livelihoods
- Climate change and environmental degradation in turn impacting primary livelihoods (as agriculture) having implications on food security, stability, conflict, human mobility, soil health, biodiversity + increased exposure to risks
- Example: sesame farmers estimate only getting 100kg per acre versus a 900kg global average
- Although climate change is commonly used as an explanation and a catch-all term for environmental issues, the assessment finds a host of local and human activity for environmental loss. Climate change is a real issue and interacts to exacerbate (and be exacerbated by) these local problems. However, many issues often attributed to climate change (such as soil erosion and lowering yields) can be tackled effectively through the promotion of sustainable land use locally. Concentrating on understanding and affecting local practices and their connections to environmental issues is likely to be more fruitful in finding impactful solutions to local issues



# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**Title:** Providing Technical and Capacity Building Support to the Government of Sudan and Local Communities on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness

**Duration:** 24 months

**Funded By:** Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA) USAID

**Main Objective:** Contribute to minimizing risks and impacts of floods and droughts in Sudan, by developing national capacities in preparedness for response whilst strengthening community-based risk reduction mechanisms and solutions at the local level

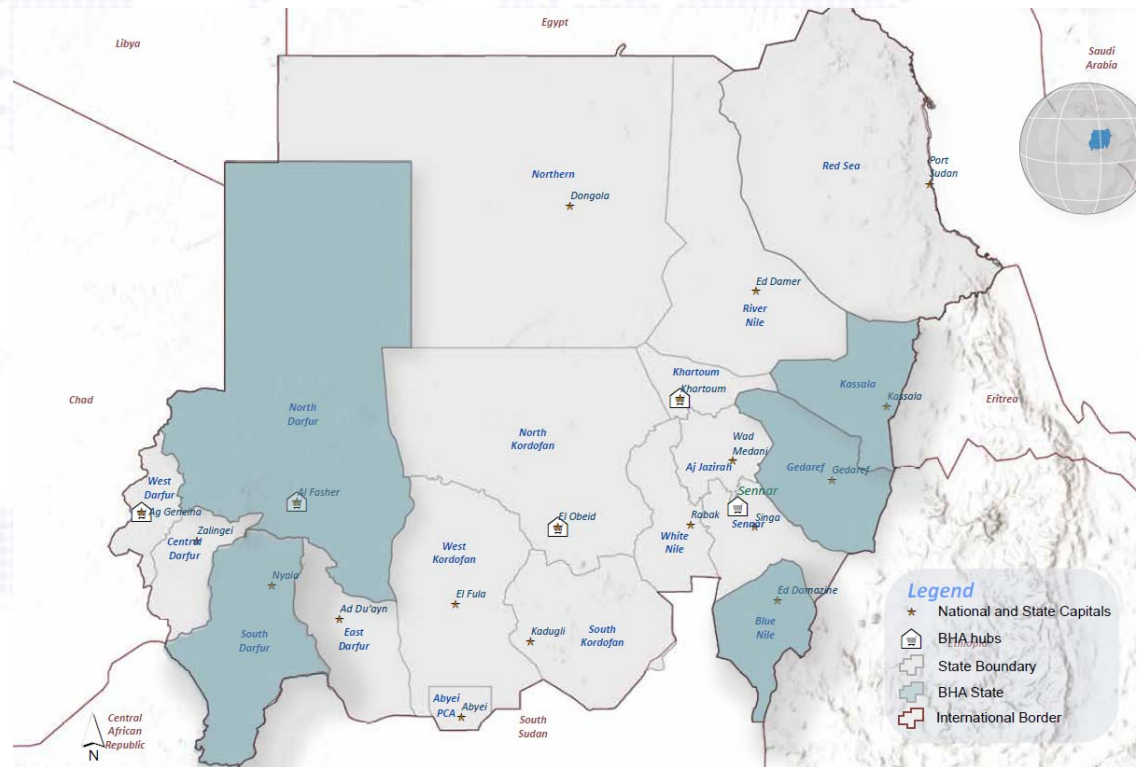
**Outcomes:**

1. Increased resilience of vulnerable communities to yearly and cyclical disasters triggered by natural hazards.
2. Strengthened national capacities to respond effectively to disasters through humanitarian pipeline management

# PROJECT MAP

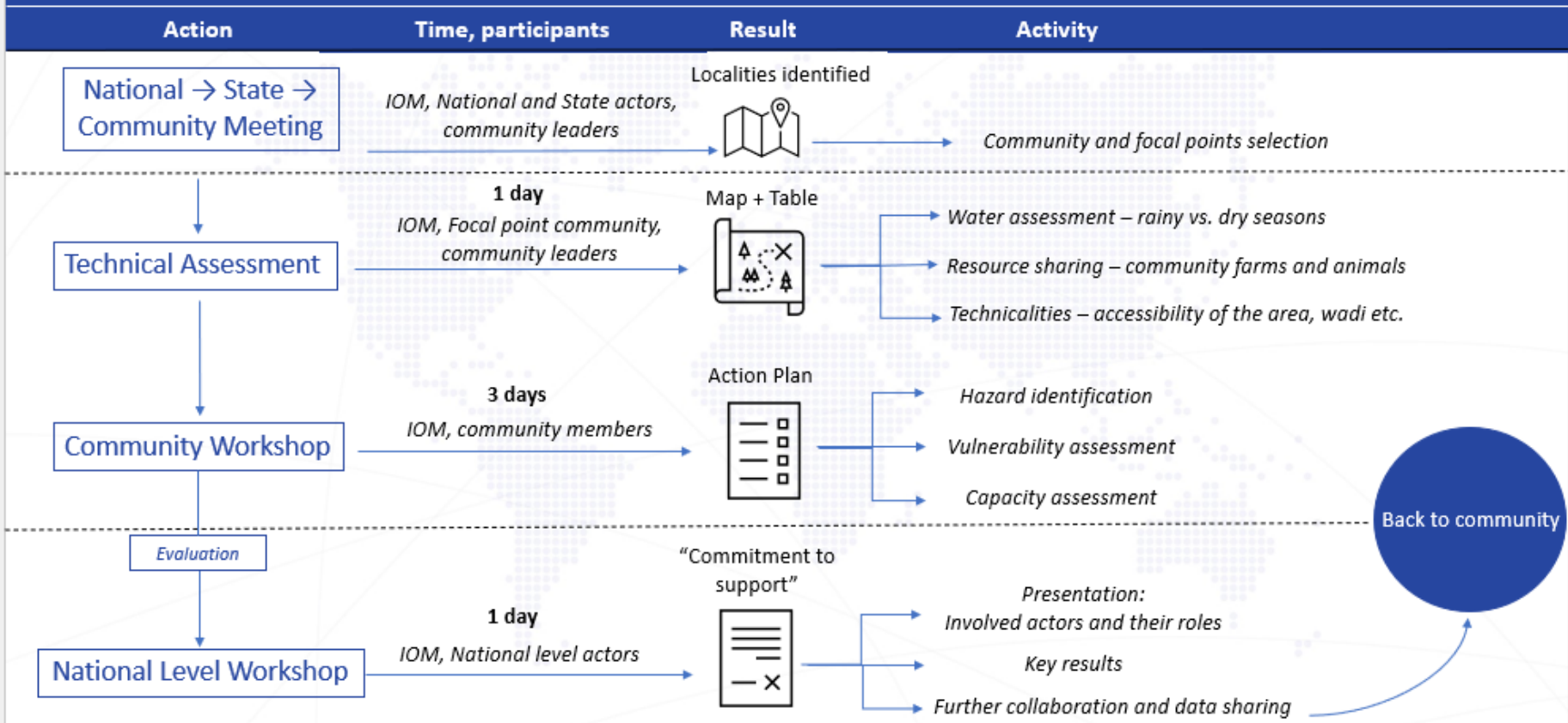
## Selected States:

1. North Darfur
2. South Darfur
3. Kassala
4. Gedaref
5. Blue Nile





# METHODOLOGY



# FINDINGS



# Climate, security and Food System links in Bagis, Blue Nile State

The communities think that in the future, tribal conflict can worsen as they expect grazing land will continue to decrease and further competition over the land still available will occur. The communities' representatives further mentioned that there are also currently a several conflict issues between the farmers and pastoralists.

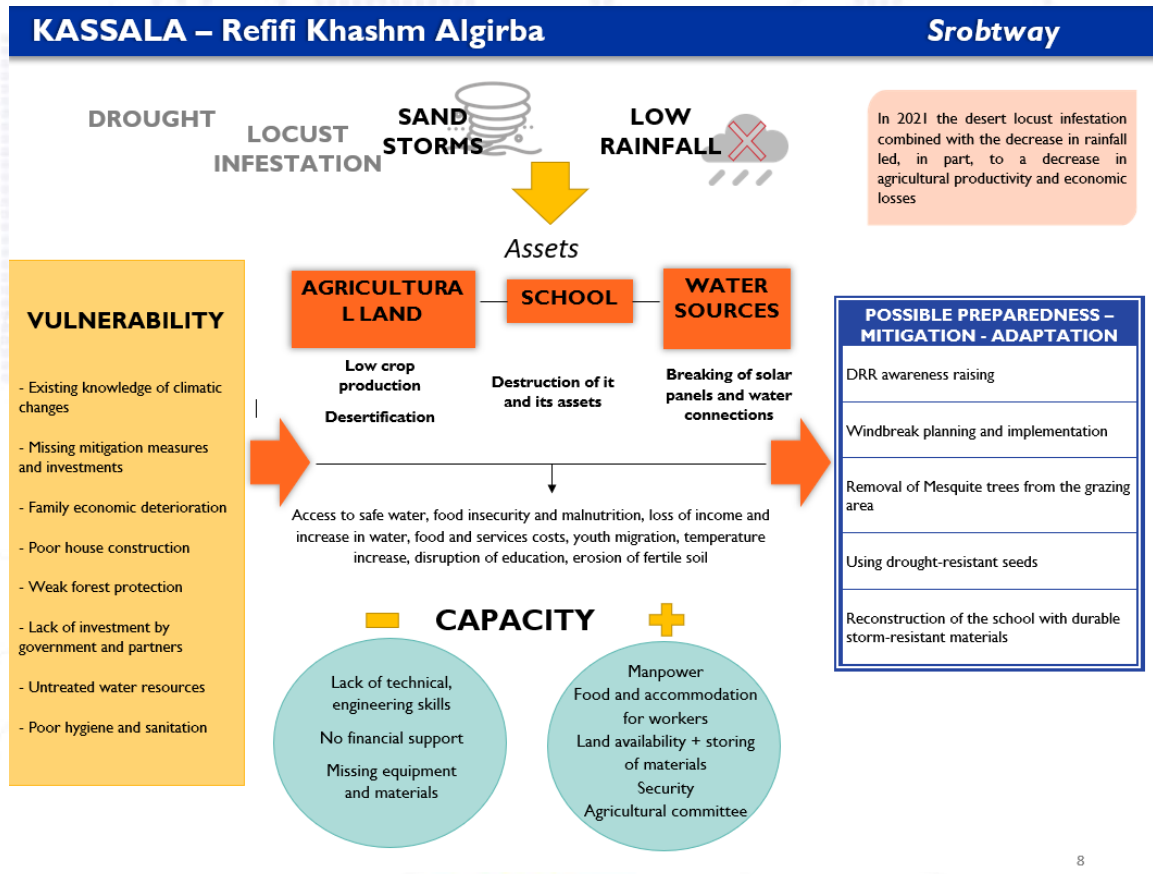
The flash floods are affecting the village and its infrastructure on yearly basis. More specifically, the houses, market, and school are all located very close to the mountain, and they are flooded, exposed to damage every year. Additionally, the community is experiencing the presence of new pests and grass infestation, which threatens their food security and their economic status and increase the cost of farmland preparation.

# Climate, security and Food System links, South Darfur State

Conflicts between pastoralists and farmer groups over the land and water sources.

**Um Janah** community identified the key hazards, in the same way, specifying the hazardous pests as **insects** and further prioritizing the **flash floods**, which reportedly hit the community more than 15x per rainy season. Regarding **insects**, all community groups are affected in some way. One of the key impacted groups by the insects are **children** who particularly suffer when insects hit and destroy the crops and missing food security leads to cases of malnutrition. **Women** are especially impacted once pregnant as food insecurity affects breastfeeding and their health. **Impaired** then substantially suffer from diseases linked with food insecurity.

# ACTION PLANS



In 2021 the desert locust infestation combined with the decrease in rainfall led, in part, to a decrease in agricultural productivity and economic losses

# MECC

**Title:** Increasing the Knowledge-base n Community Cohesion and Mobility Dynamics in the Context Of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

**Duration:** 12 months

**Funded By:** IOM Development Fund (IDF)

**Main Objective:** Informing policies and programs that help build resilience and adaptation capacities through enhancing the evidence on how climate change and environmental degradation impacts community dynamics and mobility decisions

**Outcome:** Increase access to research and data to support response options to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on mobility and community dynamics

**Output:** One comprehensive research report; Policy Guidance to inform a range of approaches; capacity building materials developed

# Evidence

From Nyala data:

- In terms of the vulnerabilities that respondents faced over the life course, the top three categories captured more than 50% of the total 84 mentions: physical insecurity and conflict violence (20), access to food and water (12), and climate change, natural disaster, or extreme weather events (10).
- We see the way in which climate change, violent conflict, and migration mutually influence one another in the domain of lived experience. Individuals who have been displaced by violent conflict experience thirst and starvation on the way to the various villages that would serve as their temporary homes until they finally get to the IDP camp. At the camps, they experience aggression by pastoralists against their efforts to cultivate the land, construct mud homes that collapse under heavy rains, and struggle to meet their own and their family's dietary needs.

November 2022

**THANK YOU**